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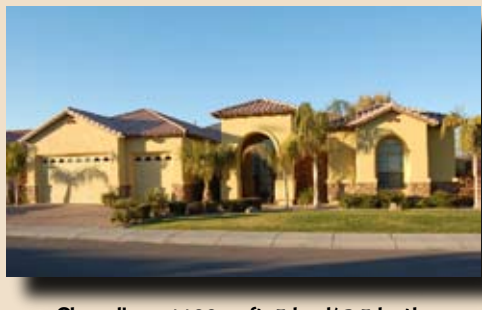

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Marriage is put to the VOTE in Arizona

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

In Arizona, it seems marriage as we now know it is on the chopping block—or at least on the November ballot.

When Arizona voters go to the polls on November 4, among the candidates and propositions, will be a simple statement, known as Ballot Proposition 102, which many say will have far-reaching effects, impacting generations to come.

In its entirety, Proposition 102 simply reads, "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state."

Should the proposition pass, this statement will be placed into the Arizona Constitution, securing this prin-

Continued on pg. 5

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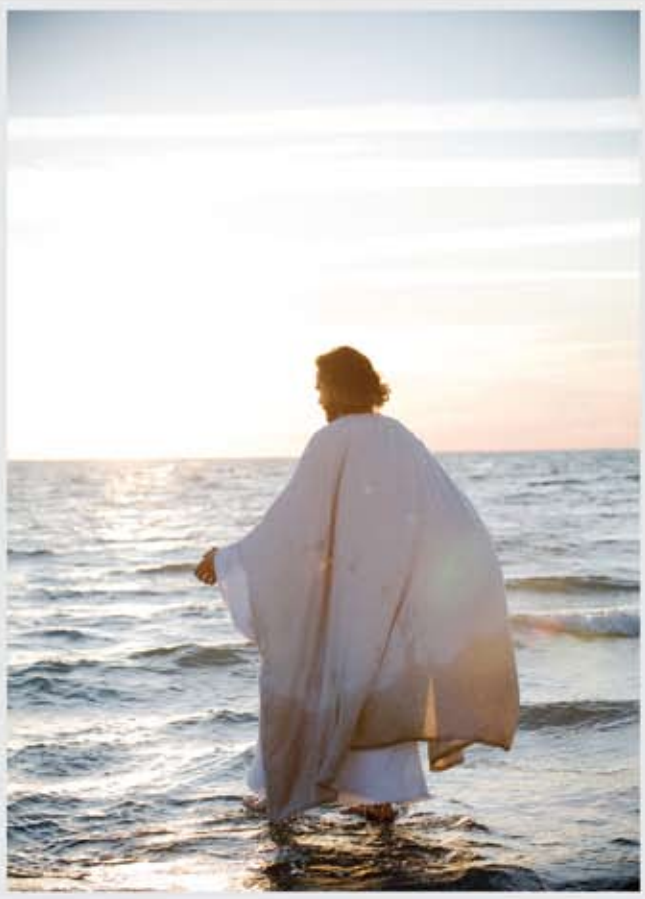

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Marriage is Put to Vote in Arizona
Continued from pg. 4

ciple and the tradition of marriage in Arizona.

Across the state, a large and growing coalition of conservative activists, church groups and community organizations have organized to educate voters and to encourage support of this proposition.

"Without a Constitutional amendment," a spokesperson with the Yes for Marriage coalition says, "we leave the definition of marriage in the hands of the courts."

tecting marriage between a man and a woman.

Here in Arizona, the coalition supporting Proposition 102 is known as YESforMarriage.com. A broad-based group that crosses all religious and party lines, the coalition is comprised of individuals and organizations that support traditional marriage, including United Families Arizona (www.unitedfamiliesarizona.org) and Family Leader Network Arizona (michelebaer@familyleader.net).

Joining the many other

for Marriage coalition.

According to Lina Hatch, president of United Families Arizona, the focus of the Proposition 102 campaign will be to "motivate marriage supporters to vote 'yes.'"

She explains, "The language of Proposition 102 is clear and simple: 'Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state.' Taking a positive approach, we want to assure voters that we are not against anything or anyone, rather we are for traditional marriage. The citizens of Arizona value marriage, and our purpose

"We shouldn't miss the chance to preserve marriage for future generations"

Referring to what happened in California, where a recent court decision overturned a statute approved by voters, Ron Johnson, executive director of the Arizona Catholic Conference, was quoted as saying, "We've heard a lot of critics, opponents saying there is no threat, there is no need for this. I'm sure the same thing was said in California, and look what has happened there."

Cathi Herrod, president of the Center for Arizona Policy and a key proponent of a marriage amendment, voiced similar sentiments. Quoted in an article in the May 16 Arizona Republic, Cathi says, "Until Arizona voters approve a state constitutional amendment, our statute of marriage in Arizona is at risk of being redefined just like we saw in California."

When, on the last day they were in session, the state senate voted in favor of placing the proposition on the ballot, Cathi said, "This is a good day for the people of Arizona. ...The people of Arizona will be able to decide the definition of marriage rather than the courts or the politicians."

Currently, 27 states have state constitutional amendments in place. "The ideal would be to have a Federal Marriage Amendment, but at least we must protect marriage at the state level," says a coalition spokesperson.

In 2006, Arizona voters were asked to decide on a similar measure. However, the 2006 initiative was more broad than Proposition 102, as it also would have banned governments from offering benefits to employees' domestic partners. When it failed at the polls, Arizona became the only state where a marriage protection amendment had failed the test of the voters. Research seems to show that the failure was directly tied to confusion over benefits issues as, according to polls, 50 to 60 percent of Arizona voters are in favor of pro-

church and community leaders, Larry Perkins has been asked to serve as a liaison between the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Yes

Continued on pg. 7

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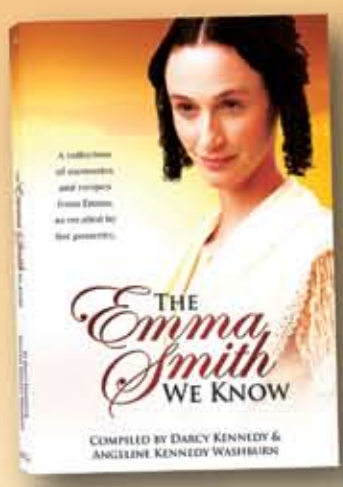

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Marriage is Put to Vote in Arizona
Continued from pg. 5

in passing the amendment is to protect this sacred institution. We desire to give the gift of marriage for generations to come."

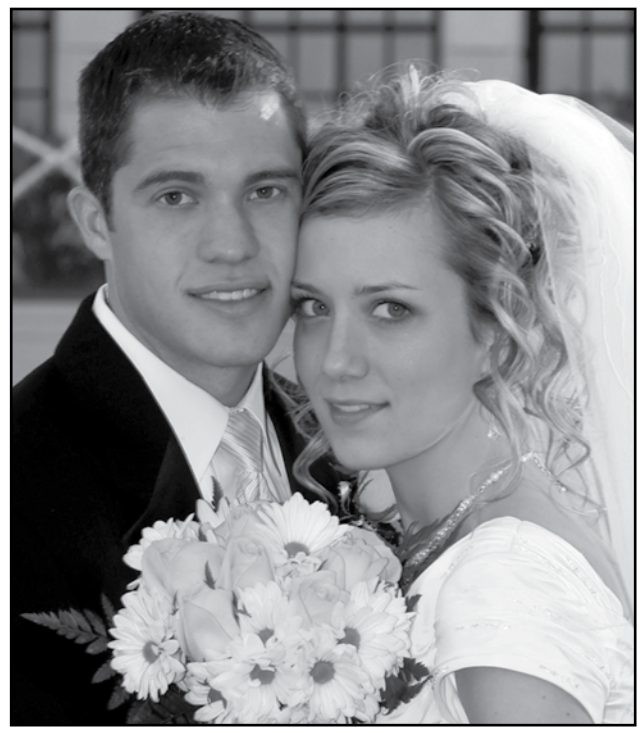
As this issue began to raise concerns nationwide, the First Presidency of the Church issued the following statement on July 7, 2004: "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints favors a constitutional amendment preserving marriage as the lawful union of a man and a woman."

Another statement from the First Presidency, issued October 19, 2004, reads:

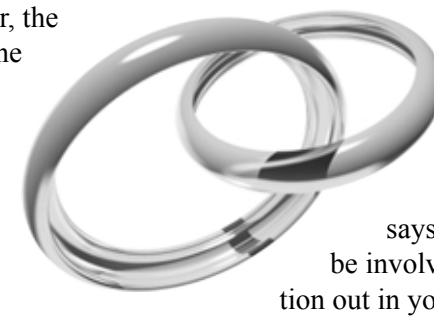
"We of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints reach out with understanding and respect for individuals who are attracted to those of the same gender. We realize there may be great loneliness in their lives but there must also be recognition of what is right before the Lord.

"As a doctrinal principle, based on sacred scripture, we affirm that marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children. The powers of procreation are to be exercised only between a man and a woman lawfully wedded as husband and wife.

"Any other sexual relations, including those between persons of the same gender, undermine the divinely created institution of the family. The Church accordingly favors measures that define marriage as the union of a man and a woman and that do not confer legal status on any other sexual relationship."



The Church recently issued a public statement in California in support of Proposition 8, which will be on the November 4 ballot. Likewise, here in Arizona and in Florida, where the marriage amendment also will be put to the voters in November, the Church is supporting the marriage amendments, though in a less-public manner.



"The Church has come out strongly in favor of a marriage amendment, yet Latter-day Saints are not alone in this matter. There are so many people across our state who support traditional marriage and we encourage every individual to rally behind the organizations who are working in support of this important institution," Lina says.

She adds, "There will be many opportunities to help promote this amendment. We encourage all members of the Church to register to vote and to provide what financial and volunteer support possible."

Michele Baer, president of Family Leader Arizona, agrees, saying: "We need to make sure we are currently registered to vote and encourage our neighbors as well. This is one way we can make our voices heard in our communities."

In addition, Lina says, "Volunteers are desperately needed," adding that volunteers can help with data entry, phone work, office work and other things to help get the word out.

Michele Baer says, "If you would like to be involved to get the information out in your ward or stake area, please contact me at michelebaer@familyleader.net."

"We must secure marriage in Arizona," Lina says.

Michele adds that, particularly as Latter-day Saints, the opportunity is great.

"We shouldn't miss the chance to preserve marriage for future generations. Ours is a unique opportunity and we do not realize the positive influence that we can have on those around us. The peace and happiness we feel about our families and marriage will radiate to others if we live the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Editor's Note: For more information and to volunteer online, go to any of the following: www.YESforMarriage.com, www.unitedfamiliesarizona.org or www.familyleaderaz.net. To contact the campaign headquarters, call 602-253-4555 and leave a message and someone will return your call.

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Reflections of CHRIST to Reach out to the World

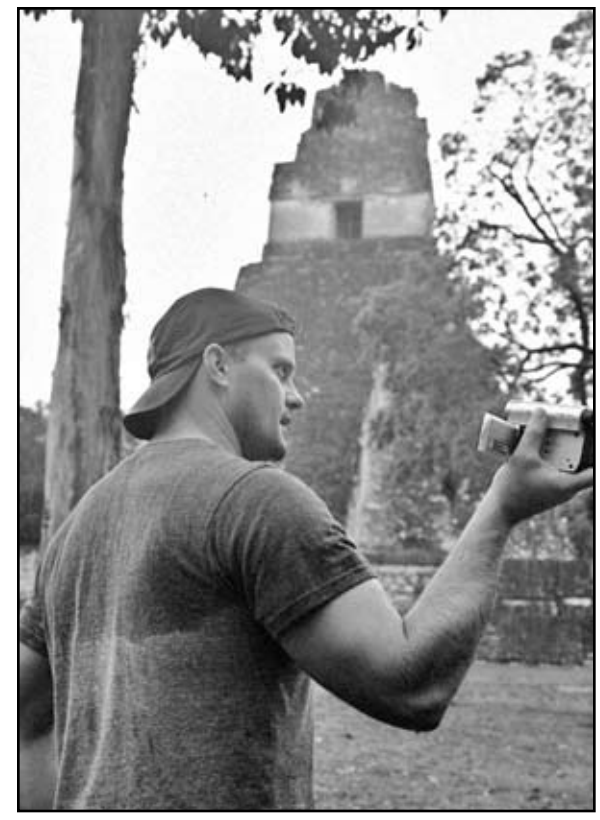

Photo by Steve Porter

With the Reflections of Christ project soon to be available in book, CD and DVD formats, Mesa photographer Mark Mabry, is already scouting locations in Guatemala, where his next project will be shot.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

From the camera of 30-year-old Mesa photographer, Mark Mabry, and with the talents of several Arizona musicians and filmmaker Cameron Trejo, came an inspirational exhibit that was displayed at the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center for six months. There, the Reflections of Christ project was viewed by thousands and was instrumental in literally transforming lives and bringing many to a more personal understanding of Christ.

The 26 images depict Christ in various settings, from his birth, to baptism, to blessing the sick, and, even, to his resurrection and ascension.

"Seeing what those scenes must have been like has made Christ seem much more real, more tangible to me," says one visitor.

Many have echoed those sentiments. "I get e-mails all the time about how people have not only felt the Spirit, but have made drastic life changes because of their thoughts about Christ while at the exhibit," Mark says.

Now, people in Arizona and around the world will be able to be further inspired and strengthened as Reflections of Christ will soon be accessible in a number of new formats.

A set of the images is already being used by the missionaries in the Alberta Edmonton Mission. Another set will soon be on display in the Washington DC Temple Visitors' Center.

In late October, the images will reach an even broader audience in the form of a 9" x 11" book, published by Deseret Book Company under the new Reflections Media Group imprint.

Chris Schoebinger, Deseret Book's publishing director, says, "Reflections of Christ is our number one art book this fall. It is the premiere gift for Christmas. We believe Mark's photography of Jesus Christ will make Latter-day Saints stop in their tracks. There has never been a book like it."

The Reflections of Christ CD will be released by Shadow Mountain. In addition to music heard at the Mesa Visitors' Center—which included the talents of Clyde Bawden, Jason Barney, Freddie Ashby, Melynda Brimhall and Hope Shepherd—new artists featured on the CD include Alex Boye, Cathrine Papworth, Teresa and Lindsay Alston and Brandon Brown.

The fascinating documentary by Cameron Trejo, showing the making of images, will be available as well. Also published by Deseret Book, the DVD includes a clip about the making of the

Continued on pg. 9

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Reflections of Christ
Continued from pg. 8

music and a slideshow of the images set to "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

Prints of certain of the images are also available. For details, go online to www.reflectionsofchrist.org.

While Mark hopes the book, CD, DVD and prints will touch many lives, he believes the biggest changes from Reflections of Christ are those he himself has already experienced. "Constantly thinking about Christ in any form is going to do that to someone," he says.

Mark dedicated himself to reading the scriptures and to making adjustments, even in little things, to come closer to Christ. He contends anyone can do the same. "It doesn't have to be in the Church art realm," he says. "You can go to your knees and ask the Lord about math, or whatever, and have a special witness of what you can do to serve. The Lord is waiting for people to do that."

Mark says he found the effort was well worth it. "I'm a totally different person," he says. "It deepened my faith, changed my life."

Well-known ARTIST GREG OLSEN TO SPEAK AT FIRESIDE

Photo courtesy of Greg Olsen Art Publishing Inc.

Artist Greg Olsen, well known for his paintings of Christ, will talk about his art and discuss how to strengthen ones relationship with the Savior at fireside in Arizona October 12.

Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Well-known artist Greg Olsen has touched the lives of many with his artwork, which has been said to "illuminate the soul and spirit of its subjects and uplift the hearts and minds of its viewers." Now, Greg will share the spirit behind that art at special fireside in Arizona on October 12.

The fireside will be hosted by the Tempe Arizona University (Student) Stake, the young single adult stake led by President Dennis Barney, which draws its members from the ASU campus and the three surrounding Tempe stakes. Also invited will be members of young adult wards in areas near the university and members of all denominations are welcome as well.

Greg Olsen's paintings of Christ are particularly familiar to Latter-day Saints as they hang in many LDS chapels and more than 20 temples around the world, but his work also reaches and touches

Continued on pg. 11

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Two "Time Out" Events Come to Phoenix in November

Two "Time Out" events, sponsored by Deseret Book, will be held in Phoenix this November.

On November 7, from 7 to 10 p.m., Time Out for Couples will be held at the Phoenix Civic Plaza, 33 S. Third Street. The event is a mixture of fun and learning, billed as "a great date night with music and messages to bless your marriage and your family." The program will include a presentation on "The Power of Love," by Kathleen Hinckley Barnes Walker and M. Richard Walker. "The Walker's personal story of what love has created for them will help you see what this power can do for you," the Web site states.

Also featured will be "But, How Do I CHANGE My Spouse?!?" presented by Merilee Boyack, author of *The Parenting Breakthrough*; and "Living a Covenant Marriage," by Douglas Brinley, author of the best-selling book, *Between Husband and Wife*. Entertainment will be provided by aard-winning singer/songwriter, Peter Brienholt.

Time Out for Women and Girls will be held Saturday, November 8, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., also at Phoenix Civic Plaza. Time Out for Women and Girls offers "a fast-paced event with contemporary music and messages geared to teenage girls and the women in their lives." Presenters and musical performers will include Abe Mills, host on the long-running teen magazine show Center Street; Hilary Weeks, top-selling female LDS artist; Jenny Jordan Frogley, singer/songwriter; John Hilton III, popular EFY speaker, religious educator and author; Cherie Call, singer and songwriter; and Laurel Christensen, director, Time Out for Women programs & events.

For more information or to register, visit www.deseretbook.com/time-out/schedule.

Greg Olsen to Speak at Fireside
Continued from pg. 9

the hearts of people of faith from around the world.

"Greg's art has a universal appeal," says his wife, Syd. "He has found that his art reaches out to Latter-day Saints as well as those who are not members of his faith."

While he will talk about his art, Brother Olsen will focus particularly on ideas for fostering and improving a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Also speaking at the fireside, and addressing that same topic, will be President Robert Craig, president of the Arizona Tempe Mission.

In addition to paintings of Christ, Greg Olsen is known for his historical work, for landscapes of scenes from America, and for whimsical paintings that depict "the best and brightest memories of childhood."

Born in 1958, Brother Olsen was raised in a farming community in rural Idaho. His early love for drawing was encouraged by his parents, who are artists themselves, and by his high school art teacher. He went on to study illustration at Utah State University and worked as in-house illustrator in Salt Lake City for two years before leaving to paint full-time. He has done work for the Pentagon and the National Collegiate Athletic Association and his work in included in the collections of many corporations, including Mobil Corporation, Turner Broadcasting System, World Explorer Cruises, Westin Hotels, and the American Cancer Society.

While Brother Olsen appreciates the variety and challenge of other subjects, his greatest love is portraying the Savior. According to his wife, Greg looks forward to the fireside in Arizona and the opportunity it affords for "talking about the Savior and the inspiration he feels when he paints."

The fireside will be Sunday, October 12 at 7 p.m. at the Tempe Institute of Religion, located on the Arizona State University campus at 1000 S. McAllister Avenue in Tempe.

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Harold & Sharon Glasgow named 2008 Parents of the Year

Photo by Lindsey Downing

Named Arizona's 2008 Parents of the Year, Sharon and Harold Glasgow raised six children, two foster children and have 37 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. They were married for 51 years before Harold passed away in 2007.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Arizona's 2008 Parents of the Year, Harold and Sharon Glasgow shared 51 years of marriage and raised six children—Lori Lawlor, Lona Johnson, Lane, Laird, Lathe and Lexine Clark—and two foster daughters—Rose Mary Allen and Sylvia Laughter.

Though Harold passed away in 2007, their unique union, devotion to one another and their prize-winning parenting have created an eternal legacy.

Sharon, who now lives in the Mesa Solomon Ward, Mesa South Stake, accepted the award at an August luncheon, surrounded by her children and their spouses, as well as her 37 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Sylvia, one of the Glasgow's foster daughters and a former Arizona state representative, nominated her parents. She said, "I especially wanted others to see how well they raised their six kids. They not only succeeded in doing an incredible job with their own, they chose to help raise two other girls, including myself."

Born in Prescott, "Mom" Glasgow grew up in Tucson before moving to Mesa. "Dad" was born and raised in North Carolina. After serving two years in the Army in Alaska during the Korean War, Harold was passing through Arizona when he met Sharon and decided to stay.

During their years together, Sharon served as PTA secretary and president, Cub Scout den mother, piano teacher and Primary president. She was a Relief Society president, precinct committeeman, ward organist and temple worker.

Sharon loved to scrapbook, sew and quilt. She canned fruit, made jam and "the best bread ever."

"She was always busy doing something," Lexine says.

Harold, too, spent many hours with his children and in service to others. A ward mission leader, high priest group

Continued on pg. 13

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2008 Parents of the Year
Continued from pg. 12

leader, bishop and temple worker, most of all, he was known for his devotion to Scouting. He was involved for over 30 years and earned the Silver Beaver distinguished service award.

"On those outings he was a loving Scoutmaster and showed many, many young men how a man should behave and conduct his life by serving, respecting and honoring those around you," Lona says.

The Glasgows treated one another with love and respect, and their children say they never heard them speak unkindly to one another.

"They have always been of service to each other and to their children and their families," Lori said

As their children developed their talents, Harold and Sharon cheered them on and were present for every concert, ballgame, and Scouting event.

The couple also taught their children the gospel. "We learned to love and serve a loving Father in Heaven and attended church together each week and were taught to live our religion all week," Lona said

"They were excellent examples of Christ-like living and displayed that in all their associations, within and without the home," Sylvia said.

Living what they taught, Lexine says, "After all of us kids were raised and married, my parents went to North Carolina to care for my grandmother. They thought it would be for a year or two and it ended up being 11 years of loving and caring for grandma before she passed away."

After returning to Arizona, the Glasgows were called to serve a mission in Kentucky in 2007. They had been out only six months when they found out Harold had bone cancer.

"They returned home, and dad passed away less than two weeks later, just after Christmas," Lexine says.

Each of the children have drawn on their parents' teachings, but that was especially true for Lexine last year, when she and her husband were in an accident and his life was taken. "Six months later, after Christmas, my father died from cancer. It is because of my parent's example, strong religious faith and parenting skills that I have been able to get through these hard times. They have instilled in each of us strong values, standards and morals. Helping us and teaching us to live our religion and to be of service."

Granddaughter, Lindsey Downing, concluded, "[Grandpa] and my grandma set such a high standard for what love is supposed to be and what being a family really means."

Harold and Sharon are eligible for the National Parents of the Year (to be selected in May 2009) and the family is gathering supporting letters in preparation for that occasion. To submit a letter, e-mail hbglasgow@juno.com.

Women's Service Club Prepares for 51st Annual "Christmas Idea House" Charity Fundraiser

With school in full swing and cooler weather reminding us that fall is upon us, many turn their thoughts to the holidays—and to the traditional Christmas Idea House sponsored by the Desert Club.

The Desert Club, a nonprofit women's organization, will once again provide a taste of "holiday magic" through its annual home tour and shopping extravaganza. All proceeds from this event are used for student scholarships and local community charities.

The event kicks off Thursday, December 4, with a reservation-only "Gala Preview Dinner" which includes the home tour and a silent auction. The following morning features a reservation-only "Sneak Peak Brunch and Lunch" and home tour. Public tours will be Friday, December 5 from 4 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, December 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year's theme is "Whimsical Wishes" and the three-day event will be held at a luxurious Northeast Mesa home. Along with the home tour, Desert Club members will offer handcrafted Christmas items, gourmet treats, holiday décor and gifts, all available for purchase.

Desert Club president LeElla Gardner says, "Every year we wonder, 'How can we possibly match last year's house?' and, yet, each year, the house is magically transformed beyond imagination."

The organization, now in its 62nd year, is made up of women of all faiths who meet together with one purpose—to make a difference in their community by doing something that just one person cannot accomplish. LeElla says, "It is a privilege to be part of such a legacy. What we do takes a lot of hard work, but the lifelong friendships made are priceless."

For tickets, driving directions or information about Desert Club, visit www.christmasideahouse.org.

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8/9/09	Alaska	**Brad Wilcox**
8/24/09	British Isles	**Scot & Maurine Proctor**
9/5/09	Transatlantic	**Roy Christensen**
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2 Community-Wide CHOIRS Bless Arizona with LDS Music & More

Photo by Randall Waters

The Latter Day Singers, shown singing on tour in Bern, Switzerland, this past June, is a chamber choir that provides a wide range of entertainment, including dinner-date concerts and Sunday "Evensong and Benediction" programs, with songs by the choir and some sing-along numbers.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Singers, orchestra members and loyal listeners from across the state sensed a void when the Arizona Mormon Choir and Orchestra was disbanded in 2006.

At a special meeting held in May of that year, Elder James J. Hamula of the Seventy, read a letter from Elder Charles Didier of the Presidency of the Seventy, thanking the choir members for their service and recommending their dissolution a Church-sponsored group.

While no longer under the auspices of the Church, Elder Hamula encouraged them to continue to bless the community with their music.

Today, two groups have grown out of that, each of them taking a slightly different approach and focus and each offering a different type of performance for their listeners.

The Arizona Deseret Choir states its mission is to "nobly entertain and uplift the people of Arizona through the performance of fine music and to help build cultural awareness throughout the communities of Arizona."

"We find that the performance of great music has a profound effect upon the heart and soul," says choir president Dr. Steven Reeder. "We seek to influence and inspire through this wonderful medium."

Continued on pg. 15

Two Community-Wide Choirs

Continued from pg. 14

The Arizona Deseret Choir performs a wide repertoire of music, from Brahms to Broadway in venues ranging from Gammage Auditorium to local ward chapels. Choir members are 18 and up, from all walks of life. The governing board consists of Dr. Reeder, Dr. Mike Willson, Darlene Brinkerhoff and Amy Ahlstrom; and Jennifer Garrett recently accepted the position of Choir Director for the 2008-2009 season.

Jennifer has a master's degree in choral conducting from the University of Nebraska and trained under Mack Wilberg and other BYU Choral greats. She is currently in her last year of ASU's doctoral program in choral conducting.

Photo by Cecily Markland

The Arizona Deseret Choir, under the direction of Jennifer Garrett, performs a broad repertorie of music as they seek to "nobly entertain and uplift the people of Arizona." The Choir, now with 81 members, seeks to expand and is auditioning for all sections.

The Choir, now with 81 members, is seeking to expand to120 and is auditioning for all positions.

"We invite all musically inclined and gifted singers to come and sit through a rehearsal. We can guarantee an uplifting and invigorating experience," Dr. Reeder says. The choir meets at the Beverly Chapel (1054 W. 2nd Place in Mesa) every Thursday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. To learn about auditioning, contact Erna Arnold at 480-969-1400. Or, to schedule the Arizona Deseret Choir for a performance, contact Dr. Reeder at stevenreeder@cox.net.

The Latter Day Singers is a smaller choir, limited to 30 members, who are admitted by audition.

Musical director, Lorri McHardy, says the smaller size allows them a great deal of variety and flexibility in their performances. The Latter Day Singers, which draws members from all across the Valley, consider themselves a chamber choir, often performing a cappella. Their repertoire includes jazz, Broadway, folk, madrigals, LDS and classical.

According to Lorri's husband, Gregor, who serves as choir president, "We have an amazingly cohesive sound." He adds, "We don't have a lot of raw talent. Instead, the unity we've accomplished starts with the heart. We're a group of friends first and, secondly, a group of singers."

The Latter Day Singers were one of three LDS choirs invited to sing at the famous "Passion for Music Festival" in Oberammergau, Germany this past June. They toured Austria, Switzerland and Germany, performing for the Saints in those areas.

"One of the main purposes of our European tour is to provide missionary and reactivation opportunities," Lorri says.

The McHardys, of the Salt River Ward, Citrus Heights Stake, say the choir presents dinner-date concerts, which include entertainment by the choir and a catered dinner. They also offer Sunday "Evensong and Benediction" programs, with songs by the choir and some sing-along numbers.

To learn about scheduling a performance by the Latter Day Singers, or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit their Web site: www.ldsingers.com.

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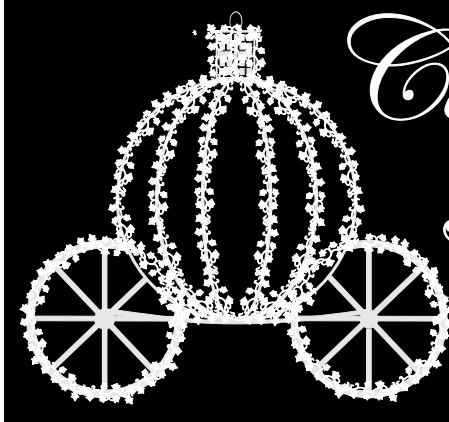

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ASU

President Michael Crow Expresses Admiration for Latter-day Saints

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

"An Evening with President Crow" was held at the Tempe Arizona Institute building in April, with ASU President Michael Crow addressing prominent Latter-day Saint leaders from across the Valley.

In his remarks, President Crow expressed his admiration for the LDS people and the influence Latter-day Saints have had on the state of Arizona in terms of education, politics, business and industry.

President Crow recounted the plans to construct the new Institute building on the ASU campus, saying it now stands as a welcome asset to the campus. He noted that because of the Institute building other religious affiliated groups on and around campus have been motivated to improve and upgrade their facilities.

President Crow confirmed his commitment to faith-based education and spoke of the importance of ensuring solid secular learning combined with religious footings. He illustrated ways in which the university has reached out to accommodate LDS students, to make them feel welcome and secure.

For example, he said, the new Live Well Residential Communities provide safe, comfortable accommodations.

President Crow also spoke of scholarship opportunities available to students at ASU. The university has the highest number of National Merit Scholars and

Photo courtesy of ASU Office of Public Affairs

Speaking recently to prominent LDS leaders from across the Valley, ASU President Dr. Michael Crow expressed his admiration for the LDS people and confirmed his commitment to faith-based education.

National Hispanic Scholars of any public university in the country. Any Arizona high school student who is in the top 5 percent of his or her graduating class is offered a free education at ASU, including tuition, fees and housing. He also explained that, according to a university policy, a scholarship holder who was to leave to serve a mission or to serve in the military would be guaranteed that they would have the scholarship when they returned.

Noting that he is "keenly aware" that a large number of LDS college students would like to attend BYU as a first choice, President Crow said, "ASU, in concert with the Institute, provides an affordable, comparable experience that Arizona residents, in particular, should consider."

According to President Crow, ASU has four separate campuses located across the valley, each offering a wide array of study opportunities and disciplines. He explained that ASU is considered one of the five top Research 1 universities in the country. In addition, ASU has several nationally ranked schools, colleges and programs.

President Crow asked that parents, community and ecclesiastical leaders continue to "turn up the volume" to help future students and community decision-makers understand the tremendous partnership ASU has with the Tempe Institute and the Tempe University Stake.

The Tempe University Stake is centered in the ASU Institute building and serves students in several wards. Activities include Sunday worship, Monday family home evenings in bishop's homes, sports and wellness programs, temple trips, Church and community service, missionary opportunities, monthly firesides and other social events.

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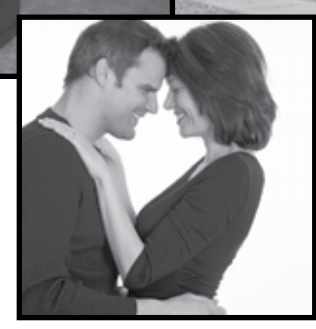

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Five friends join the Church within *five months* to become *Sisters* in the *gospel*

Photo courtesy of Tiffani Phillips

Five young women who grew up together in Ahwautukee and all played high school basketball together, now all have the gospel in common as well as all five joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints last year within about six months of each other. Shown, left to right are Catlin Nord, Tiffani Phillips, Sara Waddell and Kristin Jacka, all members of the University 1st Ward, Tempe University Stake. Not pictured is Christina Cardenas, who now lives in San Diego, California.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The five young women had gone through middle school together, were inseparable during high school and even played varsity basketball together for Mountain Pointe High School. "We laughed, cried and even got into trouble together," they say.

Now, Tiffani Phillips, Catlin Nord, Kristin Jacka, Sara Waddell and Christina Cardenas share something they say far surpasses anything they had in common in the past. Last year, within five months of one another, all five joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"It was sort of a domino effect. One baptism led to another," Tiffani says.

Today, while they recognize that "Satan worked hard" to cause them to be skeptical and harden their hearts, they also see how the Spirit worked miraculous changes in their lives.

"We know the Lord specifically chose us to not only come into the world at this time and place, but to come into this world together. At the ages of 19 and 20 we are only just beginning to see the Lord's perfect plan unfold before us," they say.

Tiffani—described by the others as a "science geek" who was "voted prom queen her senior year"—learned about the Church from her boyfriend, Justin Nelson, and his family.

She felt the Spirit the first time she attended Church, began taking the missionary discussions and immediately sensed the truthfulness of what she was learning. However, she didn't commit to baptism right away. "I wanted to do it for myself, not for Justin," Tiffani explains.

While still investigating the Church, Tiffani invited Catlin to attend a singles

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LDS Prison Ministries continue to **bless lives** as new guidelines are published

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Photo by John Power

Prison ministry volunteers Sandy Power of Chandler Alma Stake, Don Jones of Mesa Mountain View Stake, and Scott Hollingsworth of Mesa East Stake, prepare to enter the Central Arizona Correctional Facility in Florence, where they conduct weekly worship services.

The scripture, "I was in prison and ye came unto me," has personal application for many who say the LDS prison ministries have made a telling difference in their lives, sustaining them temporally and spiritually while they were incarcerated.

Jeff Hoeppner, of Dana Ward, Mesa Pueblo Stake, had been in and out of prison most of his life.

"I was what I guess you would call an 'unfit' person, a type of person that most people would not have wanted to be around," Brother Hoeppner says. However, one LDS family knew Jeff and didn't give up on him but had the Ensign, Church News, and a set of scriptures sent to him and visited him regularly.

"The other great support for me were the LDS services members that would come each Sunday," Jeff says. They "would give up their free time to be with us convicts; yet, they never made any of us feel like convicts. They certainly made me feel the love and compassion of our Heavenly Father and our Savior, Jesus Christ, and their love for each of us."

Since his release, Jeff has been baptized, ordained an elder, sealed to his wife in the temple, and currently serves as a ward missionary.

Richard, a former inmate who asked that his last name not be used, had a similar experience.

"During the six months I spent in the county jail, my wife divorced me, my son disowned me, I lost my business, my home, my vehicles, my bank accounts, and all my other worldly possessions, large and small."

When he arrived at the Florence prison, he says, "I was nearly physically dead, weighing only 140 pounds, emotionally bankrupt and spiritually empty."

He searched the "plethora of religious programs," but "found them all lacking in one regard or another."

Then, a friend invited Richard to attend LDS services. "I clearly recall that the instant my foot crossed the threshold of that room a feeling of warmth, security, and love, such as I had never felt before, descended upon me." The feeling lasted the entire meeting and, "I returned the following Sunday, and the next, and the next, and I've been returning ever since."

"Without exception, all the volunteers were men and women of character and radiated sincerity and integrity, and I desperately wanted what they had. I hoped and prayed that if I hung around long enough some of that would rub off on me, and I could begin to cultivate some long-lost self-esteem and self-respect."

Richard says, "Without realizing it, I was on my way to becoming the man God had intended me to be from the beginning."

Following his release, on "March 22 of this year, by my best reckoning 14 years to the day after I attended my first LDS meeting, I was baptized," Richard says. "I was ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood the following day. …The dream and aspiration which kept me going for all those years is now a reality."

Kenneth Jarvis, who lives in Alta Mesa Stake and serves as first counselor in the Gila River Branch—Prison Ministries, says, "It's a wonderful program. We've seen much good come out of it over the years."

Part of the Casa Grande Stake, the Branch is led by President William Cavenee, with counselors Kenneth Jarvis; John Power, of Chandler Alma Stake, second counselor; and Mel Willis, of Queen Creek Stake, third counselor. Under their leadership, approximately 62 missionaries and volunteers, from most of the East Valley stakes, provide weekly meetings in 21 different locations, working with nearly 400 men in the Florence prison.

Similar efforts are ongoing in correctional facilities in the Tucson Wilmot Branch under the direction of President Kenneth L. Thueson, and in the Perryville Branch, with President Richard L. Hunt, as well as in prison units and jails

Continued on pg. 19

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By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Don Stapley is a firm believer in county government. Unanimously elected in July as the new National Association of Counties (NACo) President, Don says the need to restore the federal-county partnership has never been greater. This need, he says, stems from the fact that more counties are struggling to cope with shrinking revenues, higher energy and health care costs, aging infrastructure and increasing public demand for essential services.

While Don and his wife, Kathy, live in the Citrus Heights Stake in Mesa, he has served for three years on the High Council of the Tempe Arizona University Stake.

His one-year term as NACo president began in July at NACo's 73rd Annual Conference and Exposition held in Jackson County, Mo. NACo is the only national organization representing the nation's 3,068 county governments.

"The roles and responsibilities of many counties in America are changing drastically," Stapley said in his acceptance speech. "As populations grow in traditionally rural communities, residents are demanding services such as enhanced access to health care, better roads, clean drinking water, sewer systems, modern schools, and parks and recreation programs—the list goes on and on."

Stapley will lead NACo's Restore the Partnership Campaign to reestablish working relationships between the next President and Congress and county governments. In addition, he will focus on two main initiatives: green government and immigration reform.

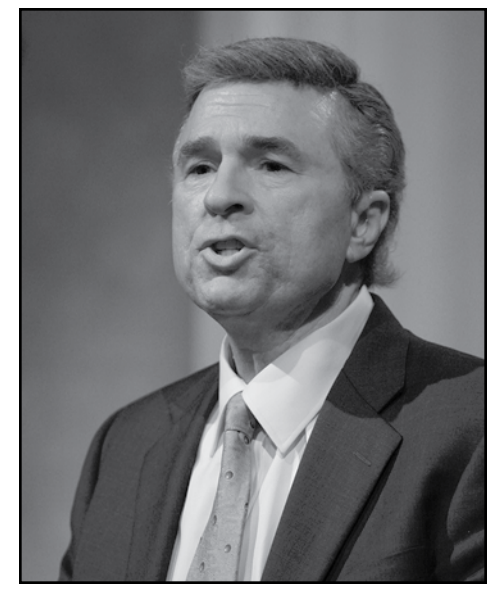

Photo courtesy of Don Stapley

Recently elected at the President of the National Association of Counties (NACo), Don Stapley will lead the only national organization representing the nation's 3,068 county governments.

The nation's 3,068 counties own approximately 500,000 fleet vehicles for law enforcement, public works, county administration, schools and public transportation and other purposes. Stapley will work with the federal government, auto manufacturers and others to combine education, advocacy and discounted purchasing opportunities to assist counties in moving toward green fleets.

"It will be a huge shift in the paradigm of how we do business," he told the East Valley Tribune. "We want counties to be a catalyst for the change in the mindset of Americans."

Brother Stapley also intends to use the powerful NACo platform to promote civil discussions and help leaders at all levels to build consensus around a workable system of legal immigration that can be implemented as soon as possible.

Stapley is a lifelong Arizona resident whose family were Arizona pioneers. He graduated from Mesa's Westwood High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brigham Young University. He was first elected to represent Maricopa County's 2nd District in 1993 and has been a member of the NACo Board of Directors since 2004, In 2004, he was named "County Leader of the Year" by American City & County magazine for his local and national leadership.

Stapley is the owner of Stapley and Company, a real estate management firm and holds an active broker's license.

Along with his many Church callings, Don has been a long-time volunteer with the Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Mesa Eastern Education Foundation, the Mesa Family YMCA, and the Mesa Little League. He served as a member of the Lutheran Health Care Network Board of Directors for more than 10 years and is an honorary member of the Mesa Baseline Rotary Club.

LDS Prison Ministries
Continued from pg. 18

in Yuma, Douglas, Kingman, Winslow, Safford, Globe and Maricopa County.

Further success is anticipated as priesthood leaders become aware of the recently published Church guidelines, titled "Providing Support for Those in Correctional Facilities"

The guidelines can be accessed at www.lds.org/mp/pdf/MP_Correctional_Facilities_2008_eng.pdf (or, go to www.lds.org, click on "Serving in the Church," then "Melchizedek Priesthood," then under shortcuts, "Support for Those in Correctional Facilities.")

For information or to volunteer, contact Gila River Branch First Counselor, Kenneth Arthur Jarvis, 480-899-9840; Second Counselor, John Power, 480-813-0796; or Third Counselor, Mel Willis, 480-203-8340.

Udalls Continue *Legacy of Sewice* as President and Matron of Asuncion Paraguay Temple

Photo by Tyler Bodine

Continuing their tradition of dedicated service, long-time Mesa residents, David K. Udall and his wife, Louise, will leave in October to serve as the president and matron of the Asuncion Paraguay Temple.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

David K. Udall and his wife, Louise, of the Mesa 25th Ward, Maricopa North Stake, have accepted another assignment that will demonstrate, yet again, their dedication and keen commitment to family, friends and fellow Church members.

They will leave in October to serve as temple president and matron of the Asuncion Paraguay Temple.

"I love the Latin people," says Brother Udall.

That love stems from having served as a young missionary in Uruguay, which, at that time, included Paraguay and Peru, and then, with his wife, in 1995, as he presided over the Argentina Buenos Aires North Mission.

Sister Udall, a family history buff, anticipates the joy that will come in furthering temple work among the 62,000 Church members in the 14 stakes in the Paraguay Temple district. "I look forward to encouraging the Saints to enjoy the blessings of the temple, and to facilitate that for them from their family history all the way through."

"Many will be first-generation members who will be going through the temple for the first time," President Udall says. "This is such a great opportunity to help build them up in their faith."

Dave and Louise, both natives of Thatcher, were married in 1959, had six children within 14 years, and now have 23 grandchildren, all living in the Mesa area.

Louise, who recently served as ward choir director and Relief Society teacher, has also served in stake and ward Young Women presidencies, as a family record extraction specialist and Cub Scout leader.

Dave, currently ward executive secretary, has served as the Phoenix area public affairs director, as bishop and as stake president twice, once in the Mesa Maricopa Stake and, most recently, the Tempe Arizona University Stake.

In that capacity, he was instrumental in bringing the new ASU Institute building into reality. In 2001, it looked like the old Institute building would be condemned.

However, when Dr. Michael Crow became the new ASU President, he encouraged LDS leaders to "plant your flags of faith deep into ASU."

Within months, President Udall accompanied Dr. Crow and a contingency of other leaders to Utah, where they met with Neil Maxwell, toured the University of Utah campus and met with BYU President Merrill Bateman.

In September 2007, the new Institute was dedicated by President Henry B. Eyring. Dr. Crow, Governor Janet Napolitano and other Church and community leaders were in attendance.

"The Lord opened the door and we walked through," President Udall says.

Along with dedicated Church service, the Udalls are known for their contributions to their community.

An attorney, Dave, with Dale Shumway, started the Law Offices of Udall and Shumway in 1965. Forty-three years later, the firm is "going strong still in downtown Mesa," President Udall says.

At a 2004 event to honor Dave Udall as "Mesa Man of the Year," long-time colleague, Clark Richter, said, "Dave has been involved in life and he really has made a difference in his family, his firm, in the church activity he's been involved with, and in this community."

Friend and associate, Roc Arnett, adds, "He goes out of his way to make people truly feel like he cares and is interested in their welfare. It's amazing how much care he gives."

That care was seen across the board, "in the University stake, on the Arizona Ecumenical Council, at City Hall or lobbying for a client," Roc says.

As president of the East Valley Partnership, Roc recommended Dave to serve on the Board, which he did for six years, including two years as chairman. Dave also worked to establish Mesa United Way and is a charter member of Mesa Baseline Rotary.

"He brings people together so well," says Lynn Strang, Rotary president. "Dave is a very busy man, but he never missed a fundraiser or work day. He always finds time to get there and to be part of the organizations he supports."

Though the Udalls will miss many family events and milestones, they believe blessings will come through serving the Lord. "You do what you do," says Sister Udall, "and know that everything will be okay, someway or another, and blessings will come."

The soul would have no rainbows, if the eyes possessed no tears.
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Five Friends Join the Church
Continued from pg. 17

ward meeting. Similar to Tiffani, Catlin says, "The first time I was at church, I definitely felt the Spirit—to the point that I was just giddy."

At the first fireside she attended, Catlin remembers, "A guy bore his testimony in Spanish. I couldn't understand him, but felt he truly bore testimony and I thought, 'This gospel is the same everywhere. It has to be true.' That was really powerful for me."

Catlin, baptized on March 3, 2007, says, "Tiffani and I are not the leaders in the group at all. We're probably the most timid, so it was different for us to take the lead in this, different than anything we'd done in the group."

After attending Catlin's baptism, Sara was next to show interest in the Church.

"Something softened her heart and she found the courage to ask Catlin for a Book of Mormon," Tiffani says.

Reading the Book of Mormon became a daily routine for Sara. She took the missionary discussions and was baptized April 1. Tiffani followed nine days later.

Though Christina had moved to California, she flew in for Sara's baptism and Kristin, too, attended. Both were still adamant that they wanted nothing to do with the Church.

Soon after the baptism, Kristin and Sara spent hours discussing the gospel and the effects it could have. Kristin was nearly overcome with emotion and stirrings of the Spirit and, although it required her to stand strong against adversity and the harsh words of others, she took the lessons and was baptized June 4.

Back in California, Christina, too, sought out the missionaries and she was baptized May 5.

Now, more than a year later, Christina attends the La Jolla Singles Ward in San Diego, the other four are in University 1st Ward, Tempe University Stake.

Sara expresses their mutual feelings, saying, "I know that the gospel makes a good day better. I thought I was happy before, but what I feel now is indescribable. I am forever grateful for my Heavenly Father and Savior Jesus Christ."

Christina adds, "This church has given me answers and truths I never thought existed. I love this church. It saved my life."

They say, "We share our story in hopes that you may be inspired to do what you have considered the unthinkable. Reach out to others with a simple smile or charitable act…and, most importantly, a simple testimony of the truth. These little acts were the biggest part of our conversion and what helped us become closer to the Lord. A year ago, we never could have imagined where out lives could be. Now, together, hand in hand, we are humbled by our magnificent blessings and precious conversion stories."

Family History Expo to be Held in Mesa in November

On November 14 and 15, the First Annual Mesa Arizona Family History Expo will offer classes, speakers, consultations and exhibits to help participants "learn how to discover and share your family history using technology and time-tested tools that bring results."

Sponsored by My Ancestors Found, "this event is for the beginning and curious family history enthusiast as well as the experienced researcher," the conference Web site states. "Everyone wishing to find out more about their family history will want to be there."

Free and open to the public will be the exhibit hall, where professionals will be available free consultations and where attendees will find exhibits of the latest genealogy services, products and technology. Also free will be the keynote address, presented by Don R. Anderson, senior vice president of services for FamilySearch.

The Friday night banquet will feature a "Cyber Space experience" and a special free gift subscription from the event sponsor, The Godfrey Memorial Library.

Registered participants will be able to choose from among 101 different classes. There will be free drawings and prizes each day, with several grand prize giveaways on Saturday afternoon.

The Family History Expo will be held at the Mesa Convention Center at 263 N. Center Street. Preregistration for both days is $75. After November 1, cost will be $90 and registration will be taken at the door. For more information, visit www.myancestorsfound.com

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Photo by Brandt Photography

Service measured according to the "Order of the Golden Rule"(OGR) is a priority at Falconer Funerl Home in Gilbert, says new owner and director Chris Timothy, shown here with his wife, Ellen, and sons, Chad, 15, (on left) and Brice, who is now serving a mission.

Falconer Funeral Home

is now LDS owned and operated

By Rachel Faas Trim
The Beehive

The life and passing of a friend or family member makes a lasting impact on most people. Chris Timothy, the new owner and director of Falconer Funeral Home in Gilbert, recalls how his grandfather's death led him to spend his days helping others.

He says, "It was because of that experience when I was only 16 that I realized how important it is to thoughtfully care for others."

A few years later, while serving an LDS mission in Tokyo, Japan (1980-1982), he considered this path as a career. By the time he came home, it was his goal.

Chris served his internship in 1983 with Owens Mortuary in Holbrook, Arizona and, since then, has held several positions in the funeral care industry. This past June, Chris and his wife, Ellen, purchased Falconer Funeral Home in Gilbert.

Tired of the corporate side of the business, Chris longed to make a difference locally. The purchase of Falconer Funeral Home was the perfect fit, allowing Chris and his family to operate a single proprietor business, while attending to the needs of LDS families.

"I wanted to create an opportunity to conduct my business in such a way that would allow us to *always* provide optimum care. We give direct attention. I answer every phone call, regardless of the time of day. Families meet with me

Continued on pg. 27

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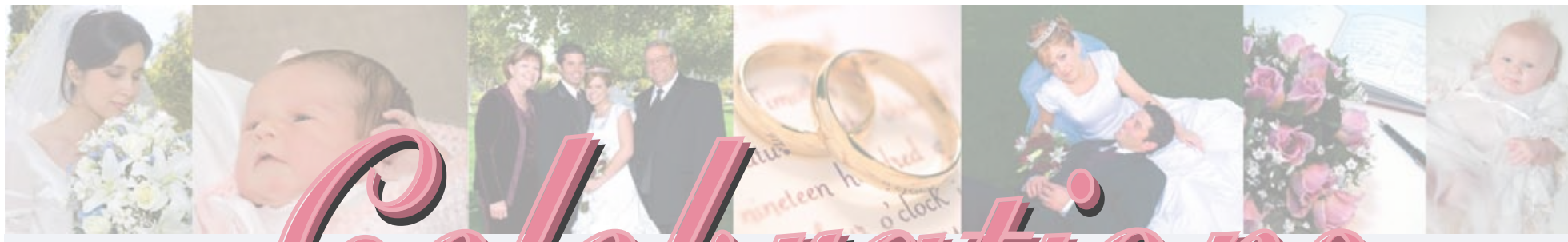
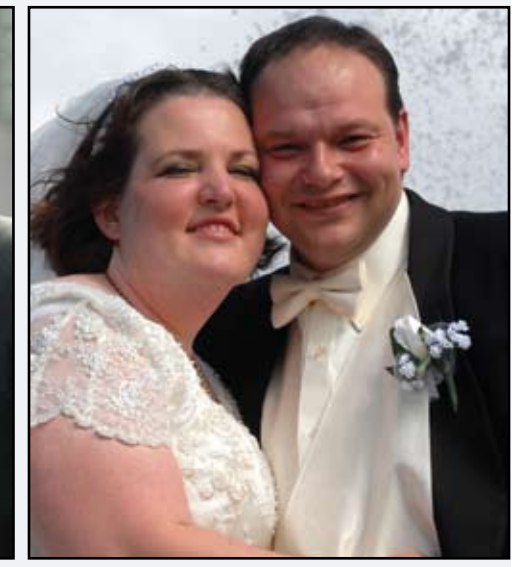


Weddings Celebrations Births

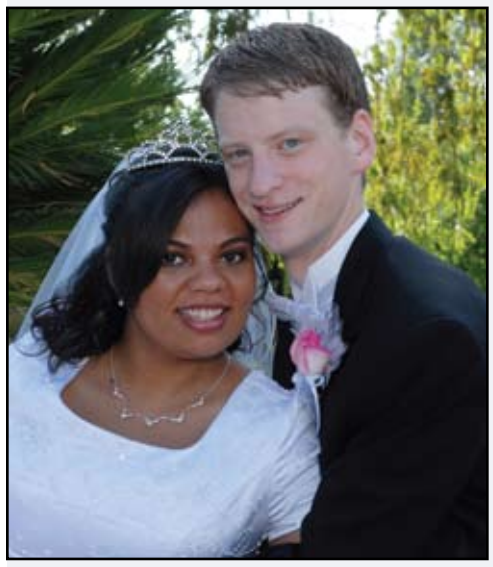
Krystal Adair & Devin Hon
Married August 8, 2008
Photo by Scott P. Adair

Ashley Hester & Arthur Miller
Married June 7, 2008
Photo by Susan Carr Photography

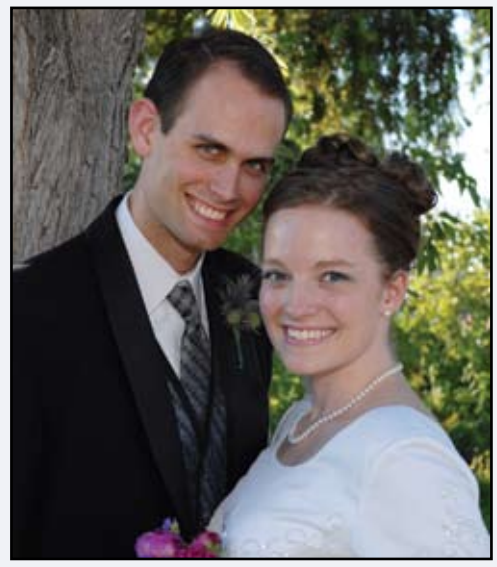
Nicole Miller & Eric Lybbert
Married August 8, 2008
Photo by Susan Carr Photography



Sharlyn Stephen & Scott Harrop
Married June 14, 2008
Photo by Susan Carr Photography



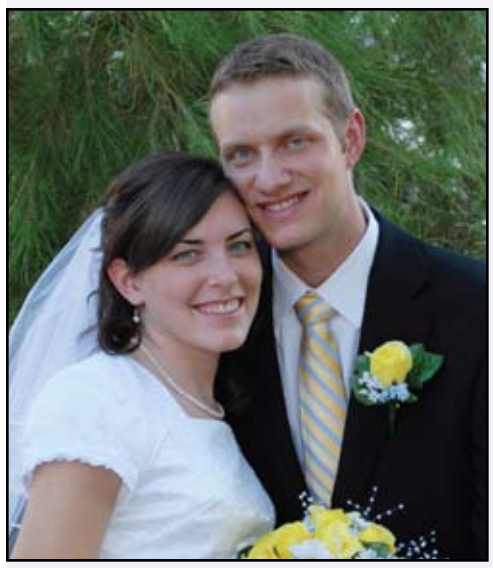
Natasha Walls & Benjamin Smith
Married July 12, 2008
Photo by Tami Webb Photography



Patience Lanier & Daren Ray
Married June 19, 2008
Photo by Tami Webb Photography

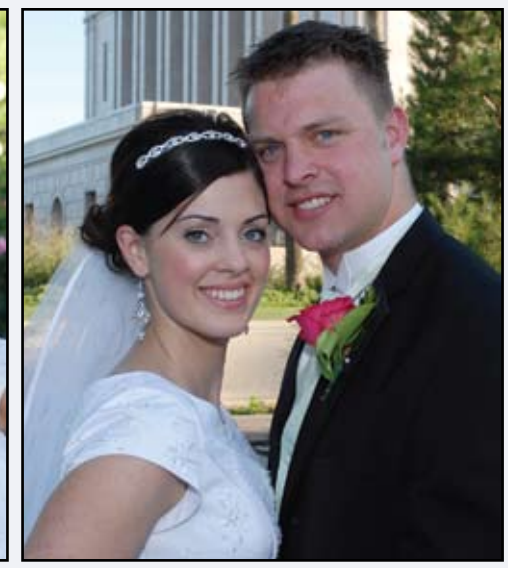
Kelsee Lewis & Gregory Hancock
Married August 8, 2008
Photo by Tami Webb Photography

Chree Johnson & Nick Klein
Married August 15, 2008
Photo by Tami Webb Photography



Adrianne Carson & Russell Lee
Married August 16, 2008
Photo by Tami Webb Photography

Tiffani Reay & Chad McRae
Married June 19, 2008
Photo by Tami Webb Photography



Amber Simons & Warren Smith
Married June 14, 2008
Photo by Tami Webb Photography

Connor Jack Van Oostendorp
Born August 23, 2008
Banner Gateway Hospital
Proud Parents:
Michael & Heather Van Oostendorp

Drake Alan Hunsaker
Born August 8, 2008
Mercy Gilbert Medical Center
Proud Parents:
Shane & Lonna Hunsaker

BYU COUGARS'

Mesa High Grad LEE CUMMARD to play at first-ever Stadium Shootout in December

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

A 2004 Mesa High School graduate, Lee Cummard is used to making history on the basketball court. So, it seems only natural that the 6' 7" Brigham Young University guard would be among those playing in the first ever basketball games held at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale.

The event will be a double header featuring four teams who, in the 2007-2008 season, won at least 20 contests and played in a postseason tournament. University of Louisville Cardinals will meet the Golden Gophers from the University of Minnesota. In game two, Lee Cummard and his fellow BYU Cougars will be pitted against the Arizona State University Sun Devils.

Lee is the son of David and Cheryl Cummard, members of the Southern Estate Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake. He led Mesa High School to the 5A State Championship in 2004, averaging 2.0 points, 5.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists as a senior. He was named the 2004 Arizona Player of the Year and was recruited by ASU, UCLA and at least a dozen more top schools.

Lee liked what he saw at BYU. Now a senior, Lee has had an impressive showing, earning him the recognition of a "fierce competitor and all-around contributor." A three-year starter, Lee led the team as a sophomore in shooting, steals and playing time and ranked second in assists and blocks. Again, as a junior, he led the Cougars in scoring, field-goal percentage, three-point percentage and blocked shots and was second in rebounds, assists, steals, and free-throw percentage.

Cummard was the Mountain West Conference (MWC) Co-Player of the Year and received Associated Press All-America honorable mention this past season.

The BYU basketball Web site states, "Cummard has good ball-handling skills, excellent shooting range and the toughness to rebound and finish in traffic."

Lee says the biggest challenge in playing at the university level has been "trying to stay focused and balanced."

While at BYU, he married his wife,

Continued on pg. 27

Photo by BYU Photo/Jaren Wilkey

Mesa High basketball star, Lee Cummard, now a senior at BYU, where he has amassed impressive statistics and has started all three years, will return to the Valley in December to join his Cougar teammates in a game against the ASU Sun Devils in the first-ever Stadium Shootout.

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Susan Easton Black Kicks Off New Lecture Series with Two AZ Firesides

Popular lecturer, author and BYU professor, Susan Easton Black will be the first speaker in a new lecture series sponsored by the Friends of Religious Education (FORE).

The lecture series, which will feature guest speakers from BYU grew out of the Church's request that the BYU College of Religious Education help strengthen the faith and testimonies of the members of the Church and also more effectively provide a greater knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to those not of our faith. FORE was formed as an outreach program to fulfill this request.

Sister Black, the first speaker for the new lecture series, is a professor of Church History and Doctrine and has authored 17 books.

She will present two firesides in the Phoenix area. First, she will speak to the topic, ""Brigham Young, A Faithful Stalwart" at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 17 at the Tempe LDS Institute, located at 1000 South McAllister Avenue in Tempe.

The next evening, Saturday, October 18, Sister Black will present, "Nauvoo: Jewell of the Mississippi" at 7 p.m. at the Red Mountain Institute, 7126 East McKellips Road in Mesa.

Terry Ball, Dean of the College of Religious Education, and other representatives of BYU will be at the two firesides to share details about FORE.

For more information about these firesides, contact Wayne Lewis, President of the Arizona Chapter of the FORE at 480-354-8105 or e-mail columbuslewis@cox.net.

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Sweet Cakes give-away

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

When stake president, Larry Wright, challenged members of the Mesa Central Stake to do more missionary work, Nick and Kellie Huntington took it to heart. They decided that, in addition to serving gourmet sandwiches and delicious treats at their downtown Mesa restaurant, they would also offer free copies of the Book of Mormon.

The sign on a table by the Sweet Cakes Café entrance reads, "Free gift."

In two years, they've given away nearly 200 books.

"We didn't want anyone thinking we were weird or anything," says Sister Huntington, "but we've gotten nothing but positive response."

The Huntingtons say they enjoy watching the reaction and hearing the comments made by customers who, usually on their way out, will partake of the offering.

Some hesitate, some talk amongst themselves and some grab one and go.

Photo courtesy of Huntington Family

Kristi, Kellie, Nick and Casi Huntington in their Sweet Cakes Cafe in Mesa, where the family has given away more than 200 copies of the Book of Mormon by offering it as a "free gift" in their store.

On occasion, the Huntingtons, who are parents of four children, are able to share their testimonies when asked about the book.

"I had a women recently ask if she could have one," Kellie says. "I told her that if she would read that book she would feel the spirit like never before."

The Huntingtons, who have a son serving a full-time mission in Argentina, say they hope to encourage other LDS businesses to offer free books of Mormon at their offices or stores.

"I think that if we all put them out, people would realize how important it is to us," Kellie says. "It would be a huge missionary effort."

"We try our best to treat everyone with love and care," she adds. "If, in some way, we can show that, hopefully others will get a feel for who we are."

The Huntingtons say their restaurant, at 21 W. Main Street in Mesa, is becoming known for their unusual gift.

In a post on an online review Web site, a customer mentioned the Book of Mormon giveaway along with raves for

Continued on pg. 27

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BYU Cougars' Lee Cummard
Continued from pg. 24

Sarah, and they have a one-year-old son, Lee Casey Cummard, Jr.

He says, "Balancing home life and class life, with how rigorous the season can be, can be challenging. You have to do what's important at the moment and give your whole heart to it."

Still, he has enjoyed his time at BYU, saying, "I've actually liked going to class and learning."

Looking to the future, Lee would like to continue playing basketball after graduation, but says, regardless of what happens, his primary goal will remain the same.

"I want to be a good husband and father and support my family as well as possible."

Lee credits his success to "hard work" and to the input and support from others.

"I have family I look up to, people who have influenced my life in a positive way, a lot of good coaches over the years, my brothers have been a positive influence on the court as well as off," he says.

When Cummard and his teammates come to town to face ASU in the 2008 Stadium Shootout, the Cougars will be led by Cougar coach Dave Rose, who has had unprecedented success in just three years at BYU. Rose was named the 2007 MWC Coach of the Year and his team has won the MWC regular season title each of the last two seasons.

The Stadium Shootout has been made possible through the efforts of the Arizona Sports & Tourism Authority (AZSTA). The Stadium Management Company Global Spectrum has done planning and development and Northwest Sports & Entertainment is promoting the event.

The Stadium Shootout will be held December 20, with tickets scheduled to go on sale through Ticketmaster September 27. For more details, visit www.stadiumshootout.com or www.northwestsports.org

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Sweet Cakes Give-Away
Continued from pg. 26

the four-year-old restaurant's fabulous food. The comment said: "Sweet Cakes, or 'that Mormon place,' as many of my fellow workers in downtown Mesa call it, is a good value and has excellent baked goods. Why 'that Mormon place'? Well, sometimes they have a basket with a sign that says, 'Free gifts,' and you get all excited, thinking maybe it is full of cookies or pens or something—but then you realize it's full of free books of Mormon."

The Huntingtons say they've stamped the inside of the books with the contact number for the restaurant and hope they hear back someday from some of their customers about their experiences in reading the book.

"If just one person reads it and joins the church, it would be so worth it," says Sister Huntington.

Falconer Funeral Home
Continued from pg. 22

individually and I personally direct each funeral. My employees give support in all aspects of the business. My father-in-law—retired Mesa Fire Chief, John Geier—helps me direct services. My mother-in-law, Connie, provides secretarial services. My wife, Ellen, manages the financial accounting."

The Falconer Funeral Home's level of service is measured by the "Order of the Golden Rule" (OGR), which independently tracks customer ratings. The stringent criteria give a clear indication of service in independently owned funeral homes. Falconer is consistently rated "superior" in customer satisfaction.

Ten years ago, Chris's family lost five members of their family is a plane crash. He concludes, "We have a clear idea of what families need in times like these. We understand the challenge of losing someone and try to alleviate as much stress as we can. My chosen career is more of a calling to me than a job. It is very personal to me."

Chris and Ellen have been married for 26 years. They have two sons: Chad, 15, and Brice, 19, who is currently serving a mission in the Guadalajara South Mission. They are members of the Chandler East Stake, Lindsay 1st Ward.

For more information, log onto www.falconerfuneralhome.com, or call 480.892.9411 (day or night). Falconer's Funeral Home is located at 251 W. Juniper Ave. in Gilbert (just off Gilbert Road on Juniper Avenue, between Guadalupe and Elliot roads).

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Tate Brinton
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Honduras, Tegucigalpa

Dexter Brown
Grandview Ward
Minnesota, Minneapolis

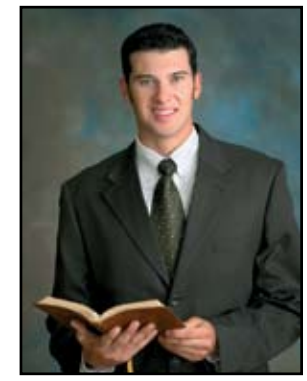
Kord Cheff
Emerald Bay Ward
Japan, Tokyo

Alex Compton
46th Ward
Singapore Mission

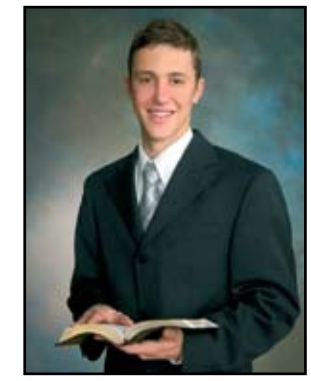
Spencer Clevenger
Madero Ward
Canada, Winnepeg

Stance Clevenger
Madero Ward & Usery Park Ward
Mexico, Cuernevaca

Alex Egbert
Mountain Park Ward
Mississippi, Jackson



Josh Figueroa
Maricopa Ward
Jamaica, Kingston



Christopher Finuf
Foothills Ward
Mongolia, Ulaan Baatar

Samuel Gardner
Monument Ward
Denmark, Copenhagen

Seth Garrett
Sunny Mesa Ward
Taiwan, Kaohfiung

Matthew Halls
Southern Estates Ward
Idaho, Pocatello

Todd & Sharon Hansen
Higley Groves Ward
Texas, Houston

Lorin Hendricks
Avalon Ward
Peru, Piura

Brother Heywood, Director
Brother Harmon, Assistant
Brother Huber, Assistant
Mesa Regional Family History Center

Brendan Higgins
Corona 1st Ward
Australia, Sidney North

Brian Jarvis
Alma 1st Ward
Oregon, Eugene

Colton Johnston
Hermosa Vista Ward
Georgia, Macon

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Adobe Branch
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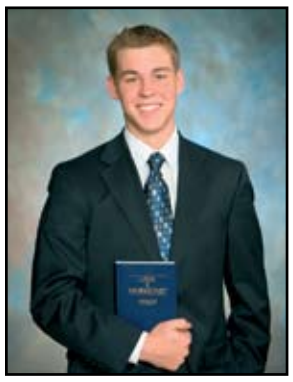
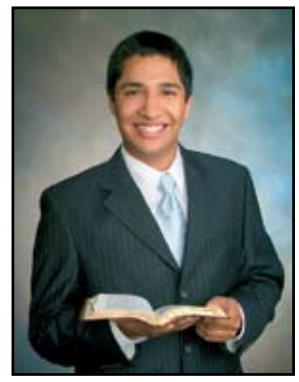


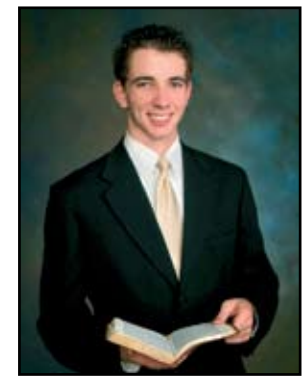
Joshua McGlothin
Higley Groves Ward
Albania Mission

Robert Montalvo
Alta Mesa Ward
Mexico, Mexico City South



Limher Montoya
Nelly Ward
Washington D.C. South

Parker Mortensen
Aspen Ward
Paraguay, Asuncion



K.C. Otis
Emerald Bay Ward
India Mission

Kristoffer Parker
Century Gardens Ward
Kentucky, Louisville

MISSIONARIES

Jason Richardson
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Costa Rica, San Jaun

Michael Riding
Higley Groves Ward
Mexico, Tuxtla-Gutierrez

Brian Roberts
Aspen Ward
Brazil, Maceio

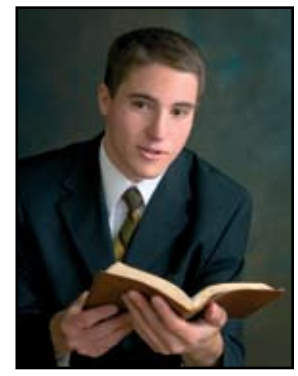
Kim Shill
Menlo Park Ward
Utah, Provo

Blake Shumway
Estate Groves Ward
Chile, Osorno

Rhynn Smith
Cloud Creek Ward
Japan, Fukoaka

Jared Tate
Mountain Park Ward
Italy, Catalina

Dallin Tipton
Groves Ward
Uruguay, Monte Video



Landon Vance
Emerald Acres Ward
West Indies Mission

Jesse Westergard
Sunny Mesa Ward
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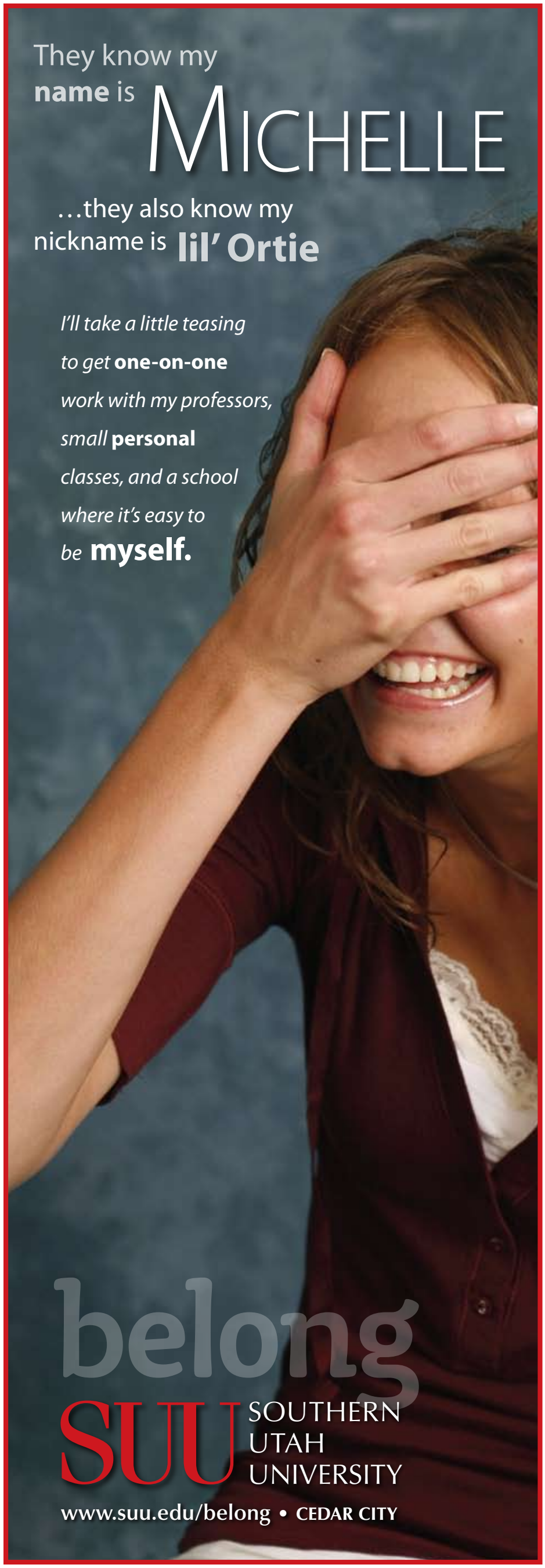
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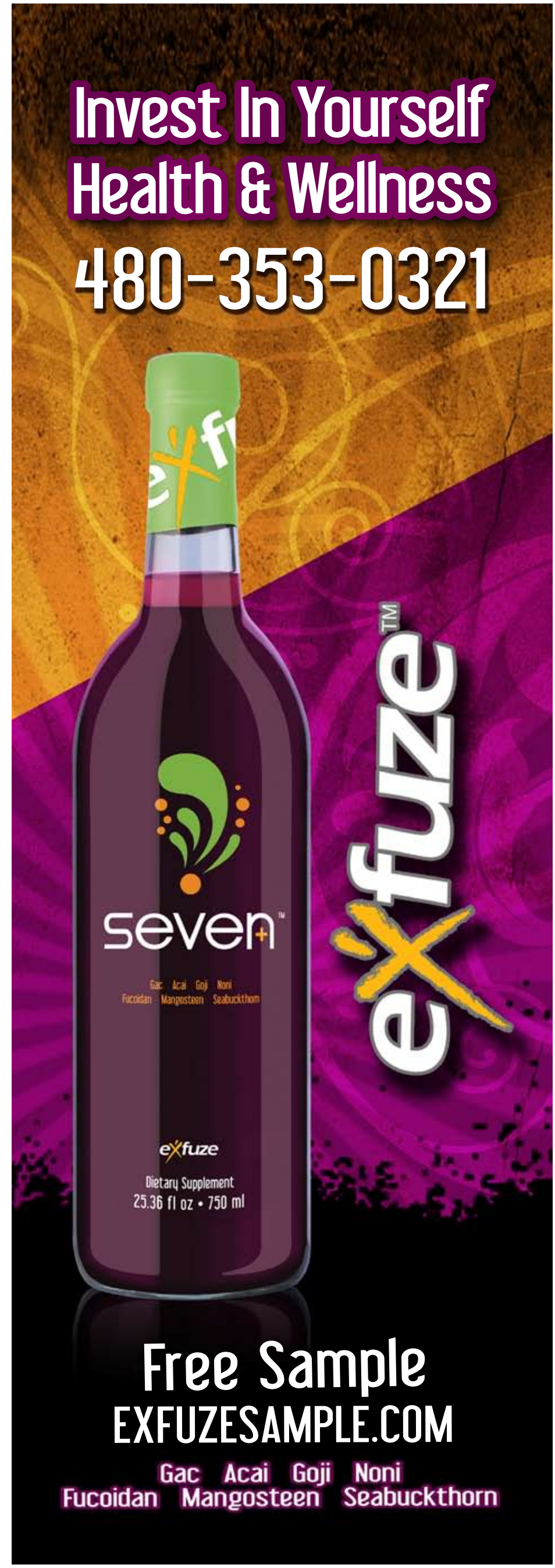
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Photo by Dennis Webb and Vicki MacLay

Youth from the Gilbert Greenfield Stake learned valuable lessons of perseverance, teamwork, self-confidence and faith as they participated in a handcart trek, pulling handcarts similar to those of the early Mormon Handcart Companies.

Tender Mercies of the Lord

make stake trek a success

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

"The Journey, One Step at a Time" was the motto as adult leaders and 273 young men and young women from the Gilbert Greenfield Stake trekked 15 miles across the Arizona wilderness this past May.

The young men and women, ages 14 to 18, left modern conveniences behind, dressed in pioneer attire, and pulled authentic handcarts modeled after those used by the pioneers in the Willey Handcart Company some 150 years ago.

"Many tender mercies happened to make this trek possible," says Dave Murset, Stake Young Men's President. Among those "tender mercies" was an unusual snow fall. "The dry weather caused postings of no fires," says Brother Murset, but "a miraculous cold front rolled in and brought snow for only the ninth time in the area." The trek moved forward.

The youth were divided into families, each of which was led by a "Ma" and "Pa." The families were placed into one of three groups: the Hicken, Lamoreaux, or Tilley Handcart Companies. Each youth used a five-gallon bucket for all their belongings.

"The Lord allowed us to view many experiences about families and love," says Clark Tilley, second counselor in the Stake Presidency.

On the second day, in a reenactment of the early pioneers experience in forming the Mormon Battalion, the young men were taken away, leaving the young women to complete the "women's pull' up a particularly steep and rocky hill.

Stake Young Women's President, Beverly Bentley, says, "It was much more difficult than was planned or expected. It took so long, and the young women went back to help each other time after time."

She encouraged them with, "Remember, you can do hard things. The Lord did not take the hard road ahead away, but He did strengthen the sisters. I know we can return and live with our Heavenly Father again."

Hunter Williams, 14, of the Catalina Ward says, "I was touched the most by the women's pull because it was tough to watch and not be able to help them as they struggled up the hill."

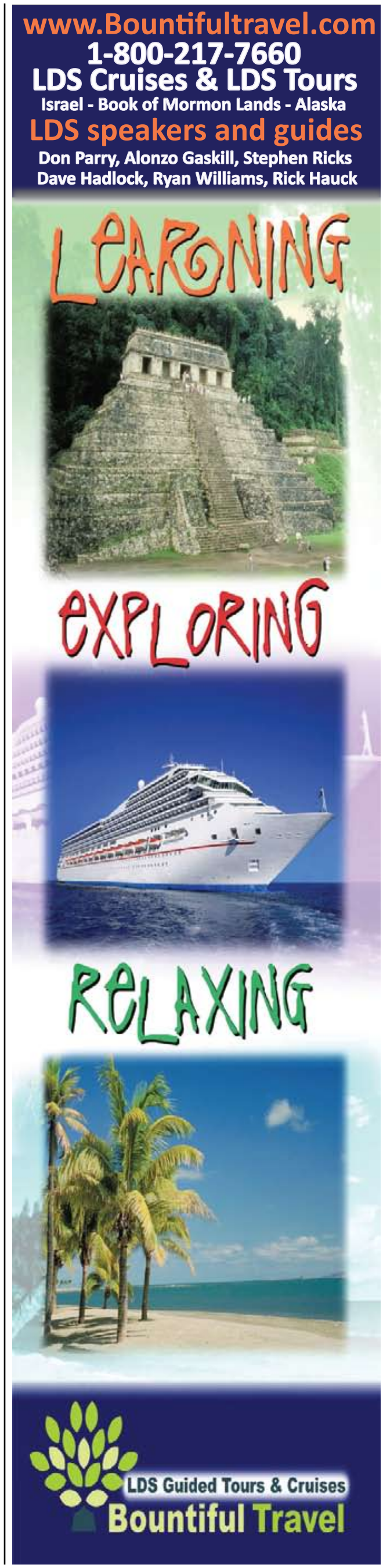
He adds, "It showed how hardworking and determined women really are, and they can do as much as we men can when they pull together."

Stake President Robert Hicken says, "I prayed for many months before the trek that the young people would come with tender hearts and be teachable, like the army of Helaman."

During a mock Indian attack, Dave Lamoreaux, first counselor in the Stake Presidency, shot a blank-loaded gun into the air and said, "Brigham Young said it is better to feed them than shoot them." Like the early pioneers, the young men and women befriended the "Indians" and traded goods.

During the activity, the youth participated in pioneer activities including shooting black powder rifles, taffy pulling, hair washing, burlap sack races, hay roping, and making apple pies from scratch.

However, Jordan Williams, 17, of the Catalina Ward, says he enjoyed the "goodbyes" the most. "My favorite thing about the trek was the goodbyes because it showed how much everyone had grown to care and love each other in just three days," Jordan says. "It was not just my family, it was the whole encampment, and that shows how powerful and true the gospel really is."



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85 year-old World War I Widow Opens Art & Book Gallery

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Her life has been rich and lived to the fullest, and yet, as Helen Spencer Schlie prepared to celebrate her 85th birthday on August 24, she rejected rocking chairs and rest homes and, instead, opened her own Art and Book Gallery.

A woman whose experiences would fill volumes, with several chapters devoted to the associations she has cultivated and cherished over the years, Helen says this new venture brings together "all the things I've been dreaming about for decades."

She says her love for books and reading began eight decades ago. "I've been reading all my life," she says. "At five, I'd sit on a stool in the barn and read books while my grandfather was milking."

Now, at the Art and Book Gallery, which she opened with partner, Jay Linford, owner of Experience Press in Palmyra, Helen will sell inventory from her own personal library and from the collections of many others. Among the offerings will be books and other items she has gathered over the years, particularly during the 25 years she and her husband owned the Mesa Temple View Book and Supply near the Temple.

"I've been collecting books for over 50 years," she says. "My opening inventory will include my archival collection. I have a personal library that's quite delightful."

"I'll also be selling other people's libraries. It's going to be a kind of a culmination of a lot of things and people I've known," Helen says.

"I have the Little Prudy books, the whole series; Bobsey Twins books; and a several of the Mrs. Georgie Sheldon books, which are collectors' items," she says.

She has an impressive array of cookbooks, several hundred in fact; and numerous LDS books, many of which are rare or out of print.

The shelves will also house Helen's own poetry books, one of which is currently being translated into Chinese. Also available will be the museum-quality, framed individual pages from her 1830 first-edition Book of Mormon.

Among the art pieces she will sell are paintings by world-famous artists, such as Arnold Friberg and Dorr Bothwell.

"I also will have pieces by Marily Schlie, my step-daughter, a magnificent artist in black and white," Helen says. She will carry some of her own art pieces as well.

In addition to books and art, Helen also is passionate about her history and heritage.

Helen, of the Gold Canyon Ward, Apache Junction Stake, is one of the few living World War I widows. Her husband, Walter, spent his 16th birthday on the front lines in Germany. Helen and Walter were married in 1955 and Helen joined the Church in 1961. They opened the bookstore in Mesa before Walter joined the Church five years later.

"Joining the Church gave focus to my whole life," Helen says. "I have a testimony that still brings tears to my eyes."

Helen, who still works at the temple at least one day a week and often plays the organ there, says her testimony is at the very core of everything she does. It's her source of inspiration and energy and she certainly sees no reason to let that wane.

"Life is eternal," she says. "This energy given to us on earth is going to be just as real in the hereafter. Our contacts here are going to continue. We're going to be just as busy on the other side."

Helen Spencer Schlie's Art and Book Gallery is located in the old Wells Fargo Bank building at 260 W. Apache Trail in Apache Junction. For more information, visit www.bookofmormonpages.com or call 480-671-0676 or 480-203-9465.

Photo by Cecily Markland

Helen Spencer Schlie marked her 85th birthday by opening the Art and Book Gallery in Apache Junction where Helen will carry an inventory of rare, out-of-print books and art by world-famous artists, as well as other items from her own collection and the collections of others.

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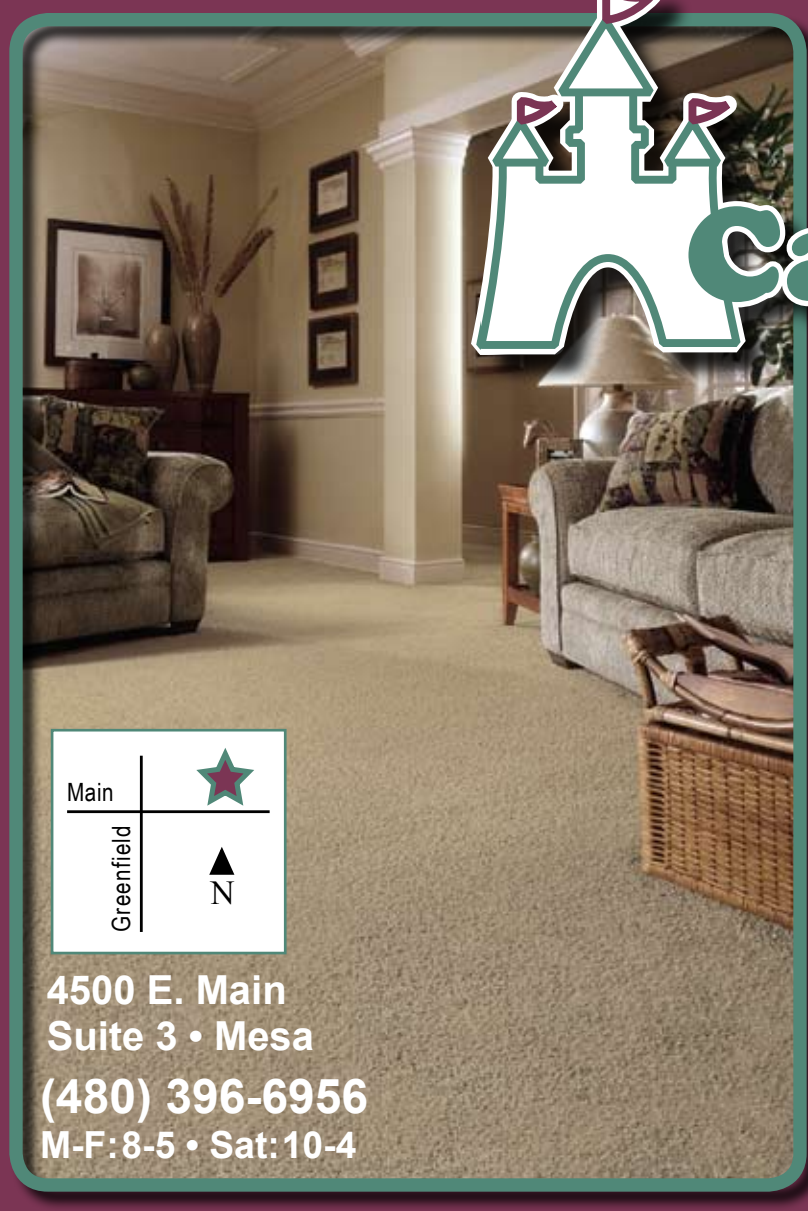

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With only one leg, Mesa swimmer takes on Long Island Sound

By Jill Adair
The Beehive

Photos by Jill Adair

"On land I feel a little clumsy. In the water I feel free," says Mark Rowley, part of ASU's Sun Devil Masters swim team, who trains at the school's recreation center. On August 2, he was on track to finish a 16-mile cancer fundraiser in New York when the event was called because of bad weather

Mesa's Mark Rowley doesn't have excuses; he doesn't need them. The bone cancer survivor lost his leg to the disease in 1977 as a returned missionary but it didn't slow him down then and it doesn't slow him down now.

Part of a three-time state championship swim team at Westwood High School, he didn't give up the sport after recovering from surgery that removed his right leg at mid-thigh.

Continuing to swim through the decades, the 56-year-old member of the Mesa Lehi Stake decided to do what most people, even with two legs, wouldn't dream of doing—swim 16 miles in the Atlantic Ocean to raise money for cancer patients.

The 21st annual St. Vincent's Swim Across the Sound Marathon is an annual 25k charity event that features solo amateur swimmers and relay teams.

Brother Rowley, sponsored by his prosthetics company, Hanger Inc., flew to New York with his wife, Pamela, for the August 2 event. He was the only amputee attempting the 16-mile open water swim.

"My biggest handicap is my age," he said before the race, "not the loss of my leg."

Part of the Arizona State University Sun Devil Masters swim team and representing the team twice at nationals, Brother Rowley increased his training this year to be ready for the endurance race. "I've really been hitting the workouts hard," he said, figuring he swam 10,000 to 12,000 yards, five days a week, for nearly six months.

It wasn't the first time the Mesa insurance agent and father of seven had participated in the swim from Port Jefferson, Long Island, to Bridgeport, Connecticut. For the past three years, he was part of a relay team with three other amputees that became the first handicapped team to ever complete the race.

Prior to that, he regularly competed in the 10-mile rough-water swim at Seal Beach, California. He calls it his "claim to fame" that he completed the race every year for 18 years in a row.

He's also an avid snow skier, a certified dive master and serves as a volunteer scuba diver for the Maricopa County Sheriff Diver's Posse.

On Saturday morning, August 2, he hit the water feeling good. He had previously worried about the weather but the forecast was positive, the water was smooth and, other than lots of "annoying jellyfish," he said the "conditions were great."

He was up against the clock: Swimmers have to make 45-minute miles or three miles every two hours or be disqualified. At six miles he was averaging 25-minute miles.

"I felt great," he said. "The training worked, everything clicked."

Then the weather suddenly changed and two storms were about to collide. His support boat slowed beside him and he was told the race was called off and swimmers had to get out of the water.

"I was really disappointed," he said. "By the time I climbed into the boat there was already lightning all over, 60 mile-per-hour winds and horizontal rain. It was really lucky that they got 60 boats and 172 swimmers out safely."

He found out later that he was in third place for solo swimmers and only two out of 32 relay teams were ahead of him.

"I was definitely on schedule," he said.

Although disappointed that he couldn't complete the race, he said he was thrilled to raise $1,500 for the cause.

Mark isn't sure if he will compete again next year. "Ask me in December!" he says.

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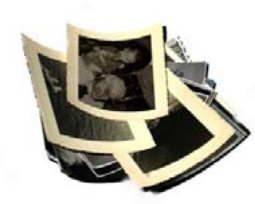

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Man fills 114 volumes in 35 years of journal-keeping

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Take some note cards and a pencil, jot a few thoughts down each day and, 35 years later, the result will be 114 volumes of personal journals and family history.

Kevin Hunt, of the Dana Ward, Mesa Pueblo Stake, has done just that. On May 20, 1973, Kevin sat in a young adult Sunday School class taught by J. Darwin Gunnell, long-time Mesa resident who owned and operated Gunnell's Big O Tire Store for 53 years and served in many positions in the Church, including director of the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center for 10 years.

Kevin says, "Brother Gunnell read a quote from President Kimball about journal writing and challenged us all to go home that day and start writing in our journals."

Brother Hunt took the challenge seriously. He went home, found a "little green journal" and wrote his first entry of "about two paragraphs;" and, "I've made an entry for every day since then," he says.

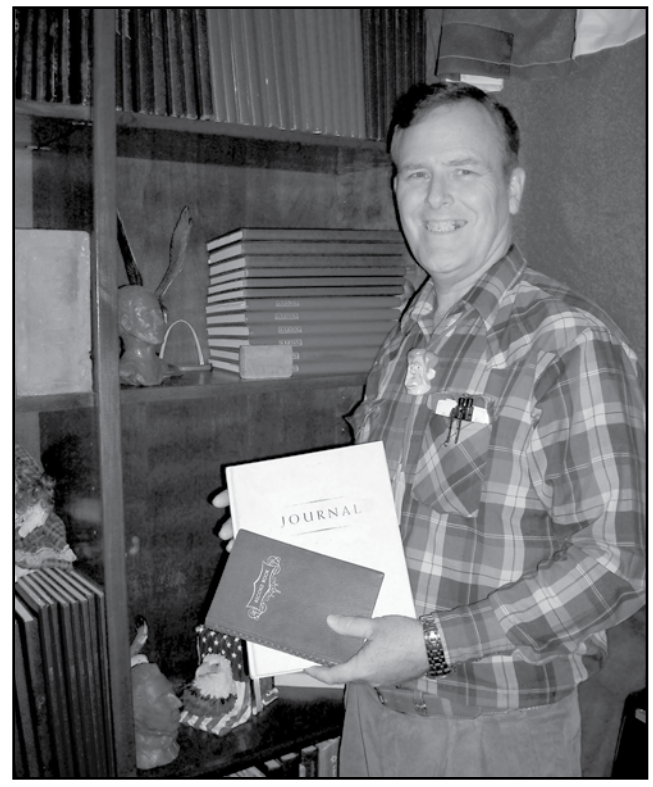


Photo by Cecily Markland

Keeping a personal journal is a way to see how the Lord works daily in our lives, says Kevin Hunt, whose bookcase is filled with the 114 volumes of the journals he has kept over the past 35 years.

Kevin wrote directly in his journal at first, then, he began carrying note cards with him, jotting a few words down as thoughts came to him during the day, and then compiling them in the evening or on Sunday or Monday nights.

His daily writings now fill volumes, each bound into a hardcover book. The first 100 volumes are handwritten accounts, detailing of his mission, his marriage to his wife Lou, the births of their nine children and the many experiences in between.

After the hundredth volume, Brother Hunt started keeping his journal on the computer, still carrying note cards to use as memory joggers. "The last 14 volumes are computer-generated," he says.

Now, he also uses LDSjournal.com, a Web site he says has large storage capabilities and backups that offer added security. "I like their system," he says. "I like the reminders they send out and it's set up like a word processing system, so it's easy to write with their format."

He says LDSjournal.com can be helpful for people who are just getting started, and he adds, "It never to late to start, you can just start now, from where you are."

For people who may not have kept a journal, but who want to start compiling their family history, Brother Hunt recommends a modified version of his note card system. "Pick a topic a week or so, such as 'dating,' or 'my mission,' or 'my courtship.' Take note cards with you during the day and while you're at the doctor's office or at a red light, jot down ideas about that topic."

Brother Hunt, who has served as a ward missionary, stake missionary, Sunday school president and ward mission leader several times, says he's written 25 books, many of them extracted from what he's written in his journals.

His children, also, go to his journals for ideas for school reports and, "If they have a question about almost anything, they can go to dad's journal to get an answer," he says.

Yet, the greatest benefit and blessing from journal-keeping, Brother Hunt contends is that "You can really see how the Lord works daily in our lives and, over time, you see the progression and the Lord's blessings that come over time as well."

To contact Brother Hunt about presenting a fireside or workshop about journal-keeping, e-mail kevandlou@huntbunch.com or call 480-833-4867.

Golf Tournament to Provide Scholarships for BYU Students

Registrations are being taken for the 3rd Annual Scramble for Scholarships golf tournament, sponsored by the Phoenix Chapter of the BYU Alumni Association. The tournament will be Thursday, November 13 at the Legacy Golf Resort, located at 6808 S. 32nd Street.

"We are excited to present this once again in 2008," says Shawn Porter, tournament chair.

He says, in addition to it being a fun event at a tremendous venue, it is a good way to support students in need. Shawn says the scholarships are presented as replenishment grants.

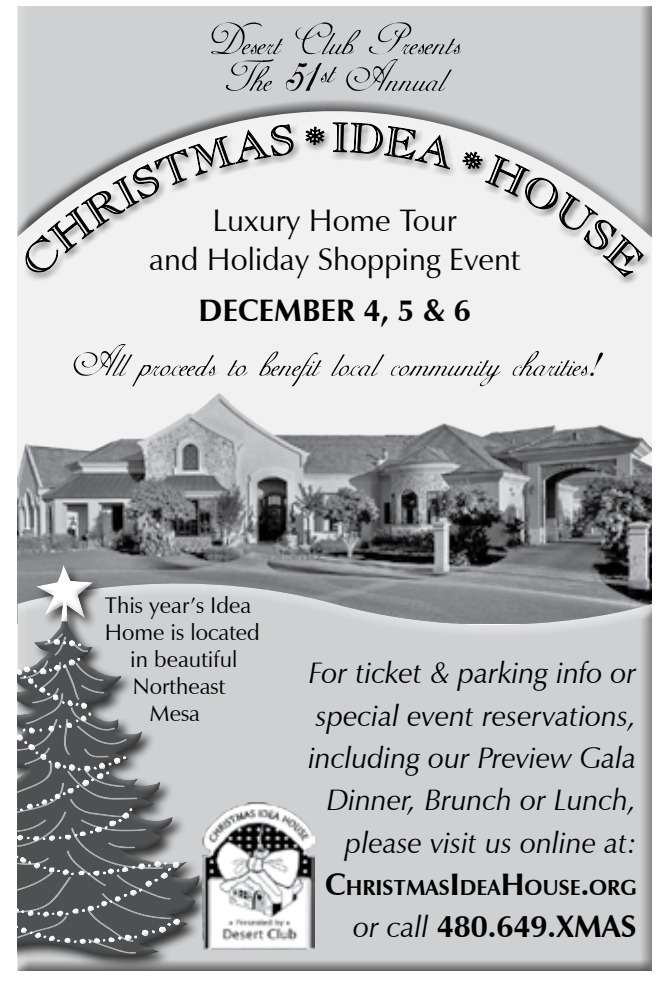
In other words, "It works much like the Perpetual Education Fund. Students who receive grants through the Alumni Association are expected to repay them when they can."

"It is a tremendous boost for many who otherwise would not be able to afford tuition," he says.

One recipient from last year wrote, "Although my parents would love to help provide for my education, other financial burdens such as mortgages and student law loans prevent them from doing so."

Various levels of sponsorship are available, such as hole, lunch, and long-drive sponsors. Volunteers are also needed to help with the tournament.

To volunteer or to find out about sponsorships or participation, contact Shawn Porter at 602-695-6247 or ShawnP@truefactor.net.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Book Provides an Unflinching Look at Mountain Meadows Massacre

A landscape view of Mountain Meadows.

Scholars are praising a new book that offers an in-depth look at one of the greatest tragedies in the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The new book, Massacre at Mountain Meadows , published by Oxford University Press, is not a Church production but was co-authored by Mormon historians Ronald W. Walker, Richard E. Turley Jr. and Glen M. Leonard.

Jan Shipps, professor emeritus of religious studies at Indiana-Purdue University Indianapolis and a respected authority on Mormonism, told the Provo Daily Herald that the authors' collaboration "is unique in the breadth of the research that supports it."

"There is documentation on top of documentation on top of documentation, and that we haven't had before. It's probably the most documented work of any in Utah history," she said.

According to Kathleen Flake, author of The Politics of American Religious Identity, the book "provides in unflinching detail and with scholarly transparency the story of one of the West's most disturbingly violent moments."

The book sets out to comprehensively describe the relevant political and cultural context and to chronicle events leading up to and including the 1857 massacre, in which some 120 California-bound emigrants, most of them from Arkansas, were killed by Mormon settlers, aided by some Paiute Indians.

In an attempt to understand and then to explain what led to this atrocity, the authors spent seven years perusing hundreds of letters, journals and other documents in Church archives and additional sources in many parts of the country. Much of their research led them to records found in the lower central states of the United States, the original home of the massacre victims.

"I think readers should be assured that we left no stone unturned in the writing of this book," Walker said.

Walker, Turley and Leonard "have produced a very detailed, insightful and balanced account," said Robert V. Remini, professor emeritus of history and the humanities at the University of Illinois, as noted on the book's jacket.

Their book will be featured in a panel discussion 5 September at the Salt Lake City Public Library. Scholars from Yale University, Utah State University and Arizona State University will present critiques of the work as well as participate in a discussion with Turley and members of the audience.

In a wide-ranging interview with Newsroom staff, excerpts of which are posted on this Web site, the authors describe their approach to research and writing and summarize the conclusions they have reached after years laboring on the book that Pulitzer Prize-winning author Daniel Walker Howe describes as a "model for how historians should do their work."

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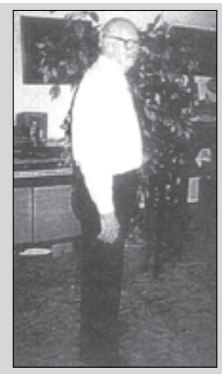
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Veteran elementary school librarian turns dream of Butterfly Garden into a reality

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

As part of their butterfly unit this year, second graders at Playa del Rey Elementary School in Gilbert will do much more than read and draw pictures of the colorful insects.

Instead, they will get up close and personal in a butterfly garden designed as a "living laboratory" to help all Playa del Rey students "gain an understanding of and appreciation for our desert ecosystem."

The garden, a mixture of desert landscape and butterfly-friendly foliage, is a reality only because of a dream and an aggressive quest by Patti Hulet, of the Leonora Ward, Hermosa Vista Stake.

Patti, a veteran librarian, was with the Mesa School District for 13 years and has been in the Gilbert District for the past 14 years. She was named Arizona Teacher of the Year for her use of agriculture in the classroom in 2007. Then, last fall, she wrote for three grants and won all three.

The more than $10,000 awarded from the grants was enough to create the Playa del Rey Butterfly Garden Virtual Classroom, complete with the latest technology, including a digital microscope and "smart board."

Patti, who was trained as a master gardener last year, says the butterfly garden project became a schoolwide effort, involving the principal, faculty, students and the Playa del Rey community.

"The fourth graders helped design it," she says. Based on the selected designs, the garden was constructed in cooperation with the McQueen Activity Center and the Town of Gilbert.

The 25' by 50' garden has desert plants, including ocotillo, mesquite, desert willow, butterfly bush, bird of paradise, desert milkweed, "and other things that will invite butterflies," Patti says.

She says the virtual classroom will be used for interdisciplinary, standards-based lessons for all grade levels. The ultimate goal is to instill exploration and discovery that will "cultivate a life-long connection with nature."

Photo by Debbie Mahan
Veteran librarian and 2007 Teacher of the Year, Patti Hulet, turned her dream of a Butterfly Garden at at Playa del Rey Elementary School into reality when she won the three grants she wrote for.

The butterfly garden virtual classroom isn't Sister Hulet's first effort at encouraging outdoor, hands-on learning. In 2004, she presented a workshop on "Honey Harvest" and, in 2006, she gave a full-day workshop titled "Agriculture: It's Touched Your Life Today!" for the Arizona Foundation for Resource Education.

"Kids need to go out of doors. We're just bottling up our kids. For years, I've promoted getting outside," she says.

Indeed a librarian extraordinaire, Sister Hulet also has a passion for reading and for teaching writing. She currently is working on a new writing program that involves what she calls "thinking maps." She will present mini lessons to students in each grade level during their library time that will "teach them the structure of writing," she says. "By the third grade they will be able to write five-paragraph essays, strong five-paragraph essays."

Patti says her motivation comes from a love of learning and of working with children and from a deep inner sense of responsibility as well.

"I know I'm supposed to do these things," she says.

To read more and see updates about the Playa del Rey Butterfly Garden Virtual Classroom, visit http://sandbox.gilbert.k12.az.us/moodle/ (log in as guest) and click on School/ Community Butterfly Garden Project.

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Sylvia Tenney Allen chosen to replace State Senator Jake Flake

Photo by Kellee Hunt

With the passing of state Senator Jake Flake, Navajo County resident and long-time community servant, Sylvia Tenney Allen, of the Snowflake 5th Ward, has been named to fill that position

By Beulah Martin
The Beehive

With the passing of state Senator Jake Flake, who had served in the state legislature since 1997, the Navajo Board of Supervisors needed to choose a candidate to fill the open seat. At 72, the Republican senator had been running unopposed for re-election in District 5 when he died from an apparent heart attack on June 8, two weeks after being injured when he was thrown from a horse.

A nine-person citizen's panel was formed to select three people who were Navajo County residents, registered Republicans and eligible in all other ways to serve in the state Senate. Then, GOP precinct committee members from Legislature District 5 met in Globe to determine which of the three would be Flake's midterm replacement and the candidate for the upcoming election.

They voted in favor of Sylvia Tenney Allen, a party activist and Snowflake real estate agent with Integrity Realty & Assoc. Sylvia and Richard, her husband of 42 years, are parents of five children and 18 grandchildren. The Allens live in the Snowflake 5th Ward, Snowflake Stake.

Sylvia is a four-generation Arizona native and has 25 years political experience working in her political party. She has served as a precinct committeeman and Navajo County Republican Chair.

Jake Flake had endorsed her in the past, saying: "I can't think of anybody that would represent rural Arizona and our natural resources better than Sylvia Allen."

Party chairman, Randy Pullen told the Associated Press, "Jake Flake's shoes are tough to fill, but I think Sylvia Allen will do a good job of it."

Of her nomination, Sylvia said, "I'm so filled with pride and humbled because Senator Flake was a great friend and a great Senator.

For the last 15 years, Sylvia has been involved with rural issues: forestry, grazing, mining, farming, protection of water rights and watersheds, wildlife, access and use of public lands.

Her work with grassroots organizations has given her experience in many aspects of the political process and in how government functions.

She is passionate about private property rights and the ability of citizens to own and control their own property, saying one of the quotes she lives by is, "A free people do not exhaust their natural resources, they create them."

Sylvia has a deep interest in the Constitution and how the founding fathers wanted the country to run, and she readily expresses her concerns about "big government."

"We live in an amazing country which allows the common citizen to participate in the serious responsibility of making laws."

However, Sylvia writes in her blog, "We have not taught the people to be independent and free but to be dependent. A whole generation has not been taught the customs and culture of our nation. They do not know what principles made us the most prosperous people with a middle class that had the blessing of abundances little known by millions in the world."

Sylvia looks forward to serving the east-central Arizona district, which is made up of all or parts of seven counties.

"I feel I have the heart, knowledge, and common sense needed to represent our district," she says.

Senator Chuck Gray, of Mesa LD-19 says, "I know Sylvia Allen very well, and I can think of no one better prepared to take Jake's place than Sylvia Allen. She's a great lady. She'll do great things for Arizona."

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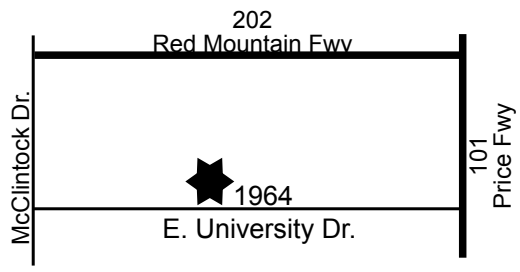

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The FOURTH OF JULY LADY leads celebration for over 30 years

Photo by Tina Scott

Known as "the Fourth of July Lady," Barbara Stailey of the Thatcher Stake has spearheaded the town's Fourth of July celebration since 1976.

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Residents of Thatcher think of her as the "Fourth of July Lady" as Barbara Stailey, of the Thatcher 3rd Ward, Thatcher Stake, has headed up the community's Independence Day celebration since 1976.

"Growing up, the Fourth of July was always my favorite holiday," says Barbara.

She grew up in Taylor, Arizona, where they had day-long activities to celebrate the nation's birthday.

"We'd have all kinds of games and eats. The whole family would be together and it was just fun, and then we'd have a dance at night," she says.

Sister Stailey's patriotic roots run

Continued on pg. 41

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Stake Musical Remembers "The Down and Back Boys"

The Glendale Arizona Stake will present an original musical November 6 through 8. Called, "The Down and Back Boys," the musical is based on true events of 1860, when impoverished Saints were waiting to cross the plains and the First Presidency announced that "Down and Back Wagon Trains" would be used to bring these Saints to Zion.

Young "down-and-backers," their teamsters and captains, with enough supplies and wagons, would drive across the plains to Nebraska, then turn around and bring the immigrating Saints back to the Salt Lake Valley.

The musical portrays such a journey, complete with adventure, faith, lighthearted fun and a bit of romance.

Free and open to the public, "The Down and Back Boys" begins at 7 p.m. on November 6, 7, and 8 at the Glendale Stake Center, located at 8602 N 31st Avenue, in Glendale. For more information, visit downandbackboys.blogspot.com.

Fourth of July Lady
Continued from pg. 40

deep; her father served in World War I and was later the Commander of the American Legion in Duncan, Arizona. Her brother served in World War II. So, Barbara's desire to serve her community came naturally. When she and her husband moved to Thatcher and discovered the only annual Fourth of July activity was the fireworks show in Safford, Barbara made arrangements and headed up a morning celebration.

"It's the Fourth of July all day long," says Barbara, "and I love the raising of the flag in the morning. That starts the day right."

Now, each year, Barbara and a committee of 10 to 12 others work to provide a program that includes the fire department driving around town at six a.m., sirens blaring a celebratory wake-up call. That is followed by a parade, flag-raising by a local Scout troop, talks on patriotism, and patriotic music. Festivities also include a patriotic-themed puppet show by local puppeteer, Becky McCormick; recognition of citizens who've served the country or government; a watermelon and cantaloupe bust, and a hose-down between the firemen and the children.

"That's what the kids look forward to," says Barbara, "but the firemen have more fun than the kids."

It hasn't been easy to keep the celebration going for over 30 years, Barbara says. Occasionally, concerns come up.

"The big siren was a little much," says Barbara. "Lots of people don't like being woken up early when it's their only day to sleep in."

The city government has also raised concerns about potential lawsuits if someone were to get hurt during the hose-down.

"They had to send a petition around saying that if one of our kids got hurt, we'd take care of it ourselves."

Yet, Barbara and her committee enjoy what they do and remain undaunted. "We're hoping that we can keep patriotism in the hearts of the children," she says.

When not working on the Fourth of July celebration, Barbara fills the rest of the year by volunteering at the Graham County Historical Society Museum and actively participating in the League of Republican Women. Barbara has served as their president and is currently their vice-president. For 14 years when her children were young, Barbara volunteered in the Cub Scout program.

"We're taught that if we're good members of the Church that we will be good citizens," says Barbara. "I think my testimony helps me be more patriotic. To me, the Constitution is almost as important as the Book of Mormon. That's what it says in the Doctrine and Covenants."

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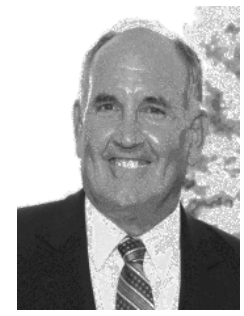

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LDS volunteers continue service tradition at Spina Bifida Conference

Photo by Kim Janes

At the 35th Annual National Spina Bifida Association Conference, volunteers from three Tucson stakes contributed to making the conference run smoothly by helping out with various tasks such as transporting attemdees to their different events.

By Rene Allen
The Beehive

Continuing a tradition that began in 1996 and has involved Latter-day Saints across the country, members in three Tucson Stakes supported this year's Kids!Camp at the 35th annual conference of the national Spina Bifida Association.

Spina bifida is a congenital failure of the spinal cord to close properly during gestation and results in a spectrum of disabilities. It is the most common, permanently disabling birth defect in the country, affecting a conservative estimate of 70,000.

At the camp in 1996, Mr. Nasvik learned his network of volunteers had fallen through. There were only 12 for the entire, three-day affair. He looked at the swarm of kids in wheelchairs. Somehow, he and two other men had to load them all onto a bus. They had just started when a pair of LDS missionaries happened by and offered to help.

One of the elders, sensing the enormity of the job, asked if Mr. Nasvik could use more help. Within an hour, 30 missionaries and the area stake president arrived, stayed for the day, and volunteered for the remaining two days of the conference as well.

Their willingness to serve marked the beginning of an ongoing relationship between the national Spina Bifida Association and stakes across the country where the conference is held.

At this year's conference, held at the Marriott Starr Pass resort west of Tucson, 200 members of the Tucson, Tucson North and Tucson West Stakes provided more than 2,000 hours of service. Under the supervision of high councilman, Kim Janes, of Tucson West Stake, volunteers assigned to infants, toddlers, youth or teens provided one-on-one assistance, transport, and helped with the Sports Camp, which included events such as rappelling, swimming, arts and crafts and sessions on learning how to live with spina bifida.

Brother Janes, who has worked with volunteers at other types of events, says the help was reliable, dedicated and professional. "Sometimes volunteers can be demanding," he says, "but, not here. People did what they were asked, as little or as much as it was."

Mr. Nasvik described the relationship as a good, two-way street both for members of the Church and the Spina Bifida Association. "We couldn't do it without the volunteers," said Mr. Nasvik. "And this year was very good."

Stake members were touched by the spirit and courage of the participants and their families. Phillip LeSueur, of the Tucson Stake, worked with the seven-year-olds. He says, "I knew I was going to fall in love with the kids. …It was amazing to see how well these kids get along with such a significant handicap. They didn't complain. They helped each other with their needs."

As this year's conference drew to a close, Mr. Nasvik asked Brother Janes whether he knew any stake presidents in Orlando, Florida, where next year's conference will be held. Though he doesn't know them personally, Brother Janes was able to provide three names.

Mr. Nasvik, showing his familiarity with stake activities wanted to get next year's event "on the stake calendar. I know how important that is," he said.

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Southern Utah University Celebrates over 100 YEARS of Excellence

SUU Publications

Southern Utah University, on its beautiful, Cedar City, Utah, campus, delivers top-quality instruction and a wide range of degree programs, as well as unique artistic exposure and opportunities for extracurricular activities.

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Founded in 1897, before universities populated the west, Southern Utah University (SUU), in Cedar City, started as a branch of the state's teacher training school. Today, the university offers specialized training, associate, technical, baccalaureate, and graduate degree programs with six master's programs, including Accountancy and Sports Conditioning and Performance.

The university offers a variety of niche programs including an Outdoor Recreation in Parks and Tourism degree. The College of Education continues to provide some of the best teacher training and education in the western United States.

SUU is a fully accredited member of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

"Many of SUU's academic programs have special accreditation from the nation's top organizations" says Jennifer Burt, Director of Communications. "We were recognized in 2007 as one of America's Best Colleges by U.S. News and World Report, and, again, in 2008 for our high quality graduate programs."

The university recently ranked on Consumer Digest's top 10 list of the nation's best educational values—for the second time—and was rated as one of the Best Colleges in the Western United States by the Princeton Review.

"With more than 7,000 students and 260 faculty, SUU delivers private school quality instruction at an affordable public institution price," says Jennifer.

Michael T. Benson, grandson of Ezra Taft Benson, was appointed as SUU's 15th president in 2006. His vision and plans for the University include continuing to expand the excellent educational opportunities. As part of that expansion, two master's degree programs, Professional Communication and Forensics Science, were added recently.

Of the many unique opportunities afforded to SUU students, Jennifer says, "The College of Performing and Visual Arts works hand-in-hand with internationally recognized artists to offer a broad base of artistic exposure. In addition," she says, "SUU's Communication Department is home to an in-house advertising agency, an FM radio station, a television studio with associate cable channel, and a university newspaper production department, all staffed by students."

Although not an LDS Church-affiliated institution, approximately 50 percent of the Southern Utah University student body is LDS. The LDS Institute, across the street from the campus, offers a wide range of religious courses and works with the university to provide a multitude of student activities each year. SUU also fraternity/sorority for LDS students, called LDSSA.

There are nearly 150 other campus clubs and organizations. SUU hosts the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival, the Utah Summer Games, the only Hispanic Center for Academic Excellence in Utah, and 17 NCAA Division 1 athletic teams.

Describing the university on his Web site, President Michael T. Benson, says, "Southern Utah University in Cedar City is a sanctuary tucked in between five breathtaking national parks, where learning lives forever."

For more information about Southern Utah University, visit www.suu.edu.

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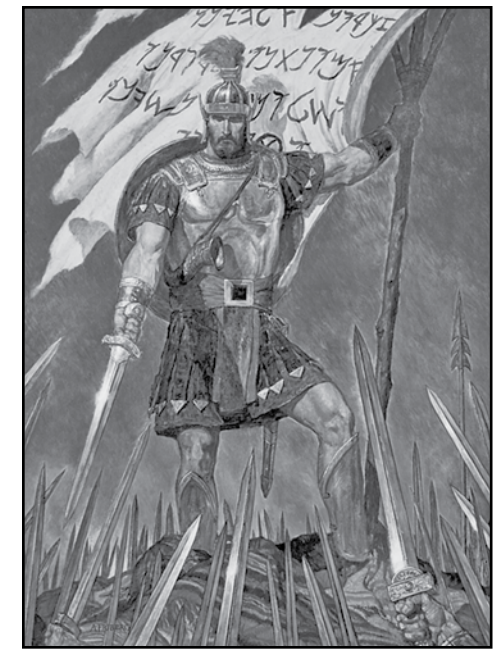
Arnold Friberg's
Book of Mormon Art Collection
Displayed at Mesa Temple Visitors' Center

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive



For six weeks beginning at the end of September, the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center will house a special exhibit of the complete 12-piece collection of Arnold Frieberg's Book of Mormon artwork.

Friberg's 1975 painting, *The Prayer at Valley Forge,* is a favorite among LDS families, adorning hundreds homes. Likewise, his renditions of Book of Mormon scenes—such as that of young Nephi subduing his rebellious brothers, of Helaman leading stripling warriors, and of Captain Moroni raising the Title of Liberty—have virtually become staples in church classes around the world.

Friberg was commissioned by Adele Cannon Howells, general president of the Primary to create a series of paintings depicting events in *The Book of Mormon* for the 50th anniversary of *The Children's Friend.* The originals now hang in the Conference Center in Salt Lake and, for the first time, the lithographed collection, signed and numbered by Friberg, will be displayed in a temple visitors' center.

One admirer, writing on the new LDSArtShow.com blog, says, "These pictures are the ones I grew up with, ... Because of him, I can picture Abinadi and King Noah and Nephi and more."

The display of this familiar work offers a rare opportunity.

"Few people in the world will ever have the chance to see all 12 Book of Mormon paintings by Arnold Friberg together as the artist intended," says Chad Harris, LDSArtShow.com Director.

Friberg, born December 21, 1913, was commissioned in 1978 to do a portrait of Prince Charles with his horse Centennial. The painting was done at a studio in Buckingham Palace. In 1990, he and his wife were invited back to Buckingham Palace to paint an equestrian portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and Centennial. Because of these commissions, Arnold Friberg's name is included among great artists such as Rembrandt, Velazquez, Raphael, and other masters who had painted portraits of the royal family.

Friberg, in his advanced age, still works when he can from his studio in Salt Lake City.

"Art to me is a service, to bring enrichment to people's lives," he says.

The Visitors' Center exhibit opened September 27, with local pianist, Dustin Snow, performing LDS hymns he arranged for LDSArtShow.com. Dustin's arrangements also can be heard on the www.LDSArtShow.com site.

"We are very excited to have the complete set of the 12 scenes from the Book of Mormon painted by the renowned artist Arnold Friberg displayed in our Visitors' Center as individually signed lithographs," Elder Lee Burke, Visitors' Center Director was quoted as saying. "We hope people will take advantage of this unique opportunity to see this outstanding exhibit."

The Visitors' Center is located at 525 East Main Street in Mesa and the telephone number is 480-964-7164. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Saturday. Admission is free.

What Values Should a Leader Have? Judah has Real Answers for Mesa!

Integrity - A leader must have integrity. They should show support by attending events, fundraisers, volunteering and speaking up for their community. They should be committed to their faith, family, their country and state. They should speak out against injustices, stand up for the poor and weak and be proud of their heritage. A leader knows that people can make better choices for themselves and that anyone can do anything cheaper and better then government. A leader encourages self-determination and advocates accountability and independence.

Family - My wife Amy and I are expecting our first child in December and we realize the importance of raising our children in a strong community. Formally Amy Peck, she is a graduate of Mountain View High School and Northern Arizona University (with honors). She is currently a Math Teacher at Taylor Junior High School. Amy has two siblings, Stephen and Greg peck. I have three siblings Joshua, Gabrielle and Jules. I have a Masters in Science, Administration of Justice and Security from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelors, Political Science from Northern Arizona University.

Education - We must educate our children to the best of our capacity. An educated Mesa is stronger, more vibrant and a better place to live. Quality education will ensure businesses and organizations prosper in our state as high paying jobs are crucial to our children's future. An educated Arizona is better for all of us. Our children must learn strong moral values like integrity, self-worth and dedication to community and family.

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Snowflake Doctor serves "Mini-Mission" with LDS Humanitarian Services in Paraguay

Photo courtesy of Dr. Kartchner

Dr. Wade Kartchner, right, works with several students, showing them how to teach infant resuscitation to others. Brother Kartchner and three other doctors, all from Idaho, went to Paraguay as part of the LDS Humanitarian Services Neonatal Resuscitation Program.

By Donna Rescorla
The Beehive

A weeklong visit to Paraguay with LDS Humanitarian Services was "almost a mini-mission" for Dr. Wade Kartchner, of the Snowflake Sixth Ward, Snowflake Stake.

Brother Kartchner, trained as a pediatrician and now the Navajo County Public Health Services Director, was part of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program with Humanitarian Services.

"I was looking for an opportunity to volunteer because of what I have received from the Church," Dr. Kartchner says.

On the LDS Humanitarian Services Web site, Brother Kartchner found information on the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP). The program, which trains medical personnel to train others in the technique, has been taken to Africa, Turkey and Eastern Europe, the Middle East as well as South America—any place the mortality rate is high.

Brother Kartchner says the program was a perfect fit for him. Having served a mission in Chile, he has the necessary language skills for the program. Another requirement was completing an NPR instructor course, which he did.

Brother Kartchner joined a group going to Paraguay in April, including Jeff and Sister Mary Zollinger, Mark Peterson, Lloyd Jensen and his son, Blake, all from Idaho. They spent a week, teaching in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, and in Ciudad del Este, the second largest city in the country.

In Sao Paolo, they were met by humanitarian missionaries, Elder Charles and Sister Vickie Rucher from Gila Bend, who traveled with the team in a rented van. The van had to be large enough to carry all the equipment, including mannequins and kits for the students to take with them as they trained others. The team left a total 12 kits in Asuncion and 18 in Ciudad del Este.

The group had a chance to tour some of the countryside, including the Devil's Throat Falls. While the sightseeing was interesting, Brother Kartchner says that wasn't the most important part of the week.

"The best thing for me was the opportunity to serve in a capacity that used my abilities and to have a wonderful experience at the same time," he says.

"I was really impressed by the knowledge people there have. They are as good as the people here, but they don't have our resources. The people we taught knew how to do the technique. We were teaching them to be teachers and to use the training equipment."

According to the LDS Humanitarian Services Web site, as many as 10 percent of all newborns worldwide have breathing difficulties at birth and require some assistance. Brother Kartchner said the success of the NRP program can't be measured in the short term but, without resuscitation skills, children die or sustain brain damage.

Brother Kartchner says he definitely plans to go again, as often as once or twice a year, if possible. His experience has also prompted his brother, also a physician, to apply to be in the program.

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Arizona Management Society

promotes increased networking and leadership development

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Photo provided by Kyle Thornton

Under the direction of this year's president, Kyle Thornton, the Arizona Management Society will focus on increasing networking and promoting leadership development among LDS business professionals. In addition, the group will work to increase its outreach to retirees, women, and startup business owners.

It's a leadership training ground; a group of LDS business professionals; a networking mecca, and a place for like-minded individuals to share and grow.

Arizona Management Society is that and more and its benefits and functionality continue to grow, says new society president, Kyle Thornton.

"The direction of Arizona Management Society revolves around the central theme of enabling more vibrant networking of business leaders in the Valley," Kyle says. "Its value comes from what people put in and get out of it."

With the understanding, that, as the group continues to grow and networking improves, "that will, in turn, build stronger companies and communities," Kyle and other Board members, including Bob Lindquist, president elect, see the importance of the monthly luncheon meetings.

"We want to provide quality luncheons with strong programs where people can learn and network," Kyle says. "We also want to provide more and more network support via the LinkedIn online network as well as other networking events as the group sees a need."

"Within that," he says, "we are looking to increase our outreach to working professionals as well as to retirees and especially to women who want to participate in the continuing education opportunities the society provides."

He says for seasoned professionals, managers, anyone starting a new business or wanting to stay current on economic or business topics, "Arizona Management Society is a great untapped resource."

According to the group's Web site, "The Management Society was founded in 1977 by Dean Merrill J. Bateman as an organization of alumni and friends of the BYU College of Business, now Marriott School of Management. Membership includes not only BYU and Marriott School alumni, but many other business professionals with the same desire for professional advancement, high ethical standards, career development, and continuing education."

Today, 25 years after its founding, the Management Society has approximately 6,000 members in 40 U.S. cities and 10 countries. The Arizona Chapter is the third largest chapter in the nation; and, with more than 1,200 professionals, is also one of the largest networking organizations in the Valley.

The society's mission statement is to "Grow moral and ethical leadership around the world." Arizona Management Society supports BYU's Marriott School of Management and ASU's WP Carey School of Management and provides other community service to worthy causes in the greater Phoenix area.

Brother Thornton, who has lived in Arizona since 1986, graduated from Westwood High School, from ASU with a degree in engineering in 1996, followed by a master's in business from the WP Carey School of Management.

A member of Arizona Management Society since 2002, Kyle says, "The benefit to me is in being able to work and associate myself with leaders who share a common belief and value system." He says those associations carry over, making him more able "to reflect those beliefs and values at work and in my travels."

As Learning and Development Manager with Cisco, Kyle is a software development leader in Cisco's Networking Academy program, a global corporate university, which provides online courses, interactive tools and lab activities to help individuals develop the skills needed for information and communication technology positions in virtually every type of industry.

In partnership with universities, colleges and high schools, Cisco's Networking Academy has delivered courses to 700,000 people throughout the world, including in Latin America, the Mideast, Russia, Asia and other technically emerging markets.

Kyle and his wife, Stephanie, and their six children reside in Crosspoint Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake, where Kyle serves as Stake Technology Specialist. Kyle also is a member of the Mesa Baseline Rotary.

For details about Arizona Management Society, visit www.azmgt.com or contact Kyle Thornton at kthornto@cisco.com or 480.213.8097.

Man requesting outdated food storage to feed animals

Gene Lines has made it a habit of recycling old food storage. Often, it is people who are moving and don't want to take their food stores or people who are wanting to rotate old food storage to make room for new.

Brother Lines puts the unwanted food to good use.

"If it's grain of any kind, or seed, especially old rancid wheat, rice, or oats, cornmeal, etc., I feed it to my animals," he says.

"People may not get a lot of food value from old grains but they do wonders for chickens and goats and for fattening the annual calf," he says. "So, rather than throw it away in the city dump, I will be glad to come and pick it up."

In addition to collecting food for animals, he's picked up canned food and some staples that were still usable and sent them to Mexico to be given to needy families there.

"I sent a lot of pinto beans and powdered milk, pasta noodles, and soup mixes down there," he says.

Of course, if cans are bulging or dented or "if weevils have completely eaten up the bucket of grain," Brother Lines disposes of those items.

"I would love to help you get rid of any food storage you don't want or need," he says.

To contact Brother Lines, e-mail glines43@cox.net or call 480-892-9387.

From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

Whose School is it Anyway?

As summer fades into a new school year, store shelves stocked with school supplies, paper and pencils, backpacks and lunch pails—all bring back a rush of fond nostalgia.

Memories flood my senses. I can smell the Kindergarten paste and newsprint and then, even more delicious, the exquisite aroma of opening a new book for the first time.

In those days, learning, for me, was something to be relished and rushed to.

Why then, did school take on such a different flavor a few decades later when I was the one standing on the sidelines, watching my children bounce off to their learning adventures?

Ah, my lessons then were so much different, laced with a bit of melancholy and a huge dose of apprehension. Those lessons didn't come from books and lectures, but from the pages of life, from the professor named Experience.

I admit, I hesitated some, didn't exactly savor the new sensations at first. Yet, gradually I gave in, began to see the richness of learning from watching my children learn.

Now, my daughter stands in that same spot, a generation later. She wrote:

"So, Olivia will be going to school in just a little over a month. We bought a backpack and a few other school things today. And, I just don't want to let her go! I really think I'm going to have a hard time on that first day of school (okay, I know I am—it makes me sad already). I'm excited for her, too, but it's such a huge marker of growing up. She won't always be my little girl who wants to wear the same white skirt every day and never get her hair done. She won't always want me to hold her when she's sad, have "pink kitty" parties, make such cute crayon drawings, play endless make-believe games with her brother, and wave to me every time she kicks the ball at soccer practice…

"I feel like she can't 'get big' until I've learned how to be the best mom for her and had more moments of just playing and enjoying the moments instead of thinking of what other things I still need to get done, and developed more patience for her strong-willed self. (Okay, I know she's just starting school, I'm not losing her forever), but really, what is so great about full-day Kindergarten?"

She's right, you know, her daughter is just starting school. And, so is she. Whether it's homeschooling, Kindergarten, piano lessons or college, at each juncture, as we watch our children learn, we, too, begin a new education, one with tricky tests and countless grade levels, one we may stumble through at times, but one we will graduate from with growth and gratitude and with lessons that linger—lessons that are even more real and more worth relishing than that new-book smell and the taste of (yes, I tasted!) that white glue.

In The Mommy Zone...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

Life's Road Trip

A wobbly head. A toothless grin. Audible coos, grunts and babbles as she tries to communicate. Sporadic kicks and jabs from chubby arms and legs. Wide-eyed curiosity, with just a hint of twinkle, beaming from a two-month-old infant. As a mother, I savor these precious moments of time. I might not get another chance to relive them.

I am incredibly blessed to have been able to add six healthy children to our family tree. Each one is unique and talented, adding a measure of wonderment and strength to the roots that bind our family together. Our newest daughter, born just weeks ago, has added a depth and radiant warmth to the branches of our family tree that is fruitful and priceless.

We just returned home from a trip to northern California for a family reunion. It was quite an exhausting 12-hour drive with six kids in tow, including a newborn, but we endured to the end. We attended the reunion in hopes to further fortify our family tree by visiting those extended family members who gave us our roots, happily rekindling those bonds that tie us as a unit.

We were excited for the trek as we all squished in between the paraphernalia that accompanies a family of eight. But unfortunately, our adventure took several detours and we had to stop for critical bathroom breaks, gas pit-stops, food refuels, diaper changes and wiggle emergencies.

The hours seemed to drag on as we drove, mile after mile, amidst the proverbial questions of "Are we there yet?" The road kept going and going and we kept moaning and moaning.

The day turned to night but we kept on trucking, knowing that relief was in sight and that our family members were awaiting our arrival. We got discouraged when we discovered our map was inaccurate, causing several wrong turns along our journey.

We traveled many miles out of our way trying to reach our destination, but held onto the hope that we would eventually succeed, no matter how long it took. We did arrive, finally, and spent several glorious days strengthening our family tree, roots and all.

Our family reunion was more than we had hoped. It was a special time for us to recharge, renew and recommit. We had many opportunities to reconnect with cousins and extended loved ones, creating rich experiences where many fond memories were shared and new ones made. It was also where we learned to savor the long journey that got us there.

This life is like our road trip. We're all traveling down paths with certain destinations in mind. There will be detours where we might get off track, sometimes for miles at a time. There are also moments when our road maps seem erroneous, but times and seasons for rest stops and refueling.

Sometimes we take wrong turns and travel foolish roads. Sometimes we choose to stray from our original destination points. Other times we run out of gas and are stranded along the highways of life, helplessly watching as others buzz by in their own search for happiness.

We may even loose a tire or two or worse, have an accident, setting us far back from our journey's end. At some point in life, we may even question where we are going. If we haven't a goal or destination in mind, we surely will never get there.

So we must chart our course and study life's road map. We must prepare for life's trip and take the necessary precautions to avoid inevitable roadside dangers. If we plan wisely, relishing the trip along the way, we will safely reach our final destination, wherever that may be.

Our reunion journey turned out to be one of the greatest adventures we have shared as a family. We learned alot, laughed alot, ate alot, played alot and loved alot. We grew closer as kin and reinforced our family roots, shoring up those ties that bind us together. We learned to enjoy the journey, not to just wait for that ultimate destination.

Surprisingly, on the long trek back to Arizona, I didn't once hear, "Are we there yet?" We were all just happy to be along for the ride, newborn included!

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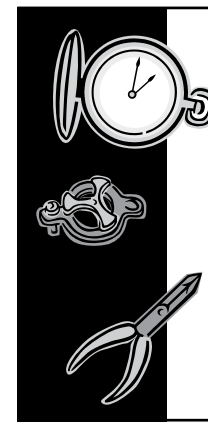

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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Gay Marriage Debate Needs the LDS Community

So, here we are, a world facing a paradigm shift so massive that the implications are incomprehensible. The value of traditional families remains under attack as minority groups seek to claim heterosexual systems as their own. Yes, I'm speaking of gay marriage.

Really, society's shift is no surprise, considering the breakdown of values, but what is startling is the weak response from some Church members, even those who fully embrace the heterosexual lifestyle as the gold standard for raising children.

Many are concerned about their gay friends and family members, who they understandably cherish. But, this issue is not about love, or tolerance, or judging. It's about the heterosexual cradle, the most basic system by which children are molded, blessed and formed into adults; the touchstone, set up by nature.

Most Americans, including Latter-day Saints, know who created nature's system. Do we stand with Him or defer to a world that tells us we're prejudice and cruel? Do we look the other way as the basic, heterosexual model for families is discarded and forgotten, while minority groups claim the marriage system, to legitimize their lifestyles?

In a world, where researchers dissect most every level of living, why isn't this issue number one among social scientists? I mean real research, not skewed reports from groups, which assure us that kids do well no matter who they call mommy and mommy.

Where was the uproar when the surge of divorce and out-of-wedlock babies replaced personal responsibility in the past half century? Yes, those problems also have infiltrated the LDS family, thus the graying of our perspectives. But, do we, as Latter-day Saints really need data, or do the very basic tenants of our faith point the way?

Remember, history teaches the direct link between healthy civilizations and intact, functioning families. Note Massachusetts, where the gay marriage experiment began nearly a half-dozen years ago—where, today, the next targets in regard to gender identification are language, legal documents and textbooks. This thing goes way beyond offending our loved ones.

Finally, Arizona's legislature approved a traditional marriage amendment to the state constitution. It's a simple statement that will appear on November's ballot: *Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state.* The last effort, two years ago, was defeated. Opponents allege it threatened public, financial benefits for civil unions—unions, which polls show the majority of Americans are willing to support. Civil unions, not marriage.

As for amending Arizona's constitution, a recent survey by Kellyanne Conway Polling, found Arizona voters are in support, two to one. But, will they vote, and will you? Come November, at least three states will address the issue: California, Florida and Arizona. A slew of others have already banned gay marriage, but judges can pry the doors open, as we found in the recent California Supreme Court Decision granting gay marriage.

It's up to us to lock heterosexual marriage down; put it in the constitution, while keeping in mind that—while we love our gay family members and friends—it really does matter that marriage of a mom and a dad is society's desired standard in harmony with God's divine wisdom.

Sister Hansen's opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Beehive and its editors. Sister Hansen is a member of the Meadowview Ward in Gilbert. She is a former, veteran Phoenix television newscaster. Contact her at letters@lindastake.com.

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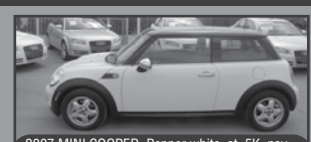

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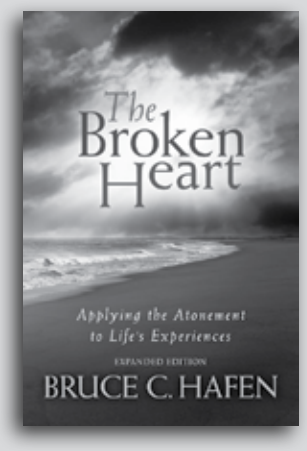

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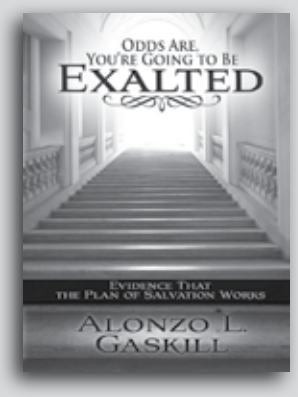

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Helps for Homeschooling

Homeschoolers are parents or legal guardians who choose to educate their own children at home in at least the required subjects of reading, grammar, math, science and social studies according to state law. Many Latter-day Saint families choose to home school, as a way to keep their children away from negative influences in the public schools and to control what their children are being taught.

The Internet provides a place for homeschooling families to share ideas and find support. Check out some of these sites:

Arizona LDS Home School Association, at www.azldshsa.org, states, "It is our mission to provide a statewide place for all LDS family educators (or homeschoolers) to find support, state-specific information, tools for providing an education, calendar of events and much more." Subscribe to the blog, updates or newsletters for ongoing help.

The Home School Mom, www.thehomeschoolmom.com/states/arizona.php, provides a free home school planner; helps for getting organized; worksheets and a lot of free, downloadable resources. Sign-up for a weekly menu for busy moms.

The Home Education Adventure at www.geocities.com/Heartland/Woods/5540/index_home_school.html is maintained by Cherie Logan, who has homeschooled 10 children. She shares tips from her vast experience, including personal articles written by her and others to inform and inspire. Among those articles is a weekly column, "Mothers Raising Noble Children."

Latter-day Family Resources, at www.ldfr.com, is an LDS family business dedicated to strengthening the family by providing discount prices on personally reviewed resources, homeschooling curriculum, books, music and more. Diane Hopkins, mother of seven homeschooled children, offers free advice, actual assignments and answers to submitted questions.

The National LDS Homeschool Association, http://lds-nha.org, links to national and local LDS support groups. Visit the Web site to join the e-mail group or newsletter. While there, enjoy home school humor or share your own stories.

Arizona Families for Home Education, www.afhe.org, offers a low-cost annual membership for $25 for new members and $20 for renewing members. Benefits include a member resource packet, quarterly Arizona Home Education Journal, e-mail alerts, reduced membership fee to Home School Legal Defense Association, scholarship program, convention discounts and graduation recognition ceremonies.

Home Education Network of Arizona, www.hena.us, provides a great overview for getting started, FAQs and links to helpful resource sites. Free information includes fun activities according to age groups, lesson plans, curriculum and worksheets. Lots of resources here!

If you live in Maricopa County, go to www.maricopa.gov/Schools/Home-School/home_school.aspx for guidelines on homeschooling and an easy-to-follow process for filing in the county.

Homeschooling in Arizona, www.knowledgehouse.info/azindex.html, offers a great list of home school support groups throughout Arizona, listed by county and city. This site offers an exhaustive list of home-school services, resource providers, curriculum publishers and educational suppliers located within the state. You'll also find local field trip ideas, interesting bios of famous Arizonans and the history of homeschooling since the state's territorial days.

Editor's Note: This column is designed to provide Beehive readers with timesaving direction and ideas for safely and easily surfing the Internet. To suggest a topic for a future column or to share an interesting Web site with others, e-mail: 5adair@cox.net.

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